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FBIS-SOV-94-070 CONTENTS *12 April 1994*

INTERREGIONAL AFFAIRS

- ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 12 April 1
- Ukrainian-Russian-Belarusian Border Protection Pact *[Kiev Radio]* 1
- Pilot Issue of New CIS Weekly Produced *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 12 Apr]* 1

RUSSIA INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

- Yeltsin Warns of 'Eternal War' in Bosnia *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
  - Yeltsin: Situation 'Slightly Quieter' *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
  - Rules Out Use of Force *[Madrid Radio]* 2
  - Grachev Phones Perry *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
  - Kozyrev Warns of Escalation *[ITAR-TASS]* 2
  - Churkin Criticizes UN, Serbs *[Moscow TV]* 3
  - Foreign Ministry 'Examining' Situation *[INTERFAX]* 3
  - Grachev, Lavrov Comment *[Russian TV]* 4
  - UN Delegate Demands 'Explanations' *[ITAR-TASS]* 4
  - Foreign Ministry: Russia Not 'Junior Partner' *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
  - Shakhray Criticizes Airstrike *[INTERFAX]* 5
  - Duma Demands Halt to Force *[ITAR-TASS]* 5
  - Duma's Lukin Views Situation *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
  - Croatia-Krajina Talks Postponed *[ITAR-TASS]* 6
  - Anti-U.S. Demonstration in Petersburg *[St. Petersburg TV]* 6
  - Solton Commentary *[Moscow Radio]* 7
  - Moscow TV Commentary 7
- Yugoslav Parliamentarian on Results of Moscow Visit *[IZVESTIYA 12 Apr]* 7
- Yeltsin Addresses Madrid Dinner Given by Juan Carlos *[ITAR-TASS]* 8
  - Yeltsin To 'Meet' Doctors *[IZVESTIYA 12 Apr]* 9
  - Signs Friendship Treaty *[Radio Rossii]* 9
  - Denies Poor Health *[Radio Rossii]* 9
  - Kozyrev, Solana Sign Agreements *[ITAR-TASS]* 9
  - Economic Cooperation Treaty Signed *[ITAR-TASS]* 10
- Chernomyrdin Statements on G-7, EU Membership *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 8 Apr]* 10
- Kostikov Urges Linking G7, Partnership for Peace *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
- Shumeyko Addresses Council of Europe on Air Strikes *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
  - Strasbourg Delegation Criticizes Zhirinovskiy *[ITAR-TASS]* 11
  - Zhirinovskiy: Bomb NATO Bases *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
  - Zhirinovskiy Threatens Measures *[Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY]* 12
  - France Grants Zhirinovskiy Visa *[ITAR-TASS]* 12
- LDPR Deputy Chairman To Depart for DPRK; To Meet Kim *[INTERFAX]* 13
- General Rejects Opposition to Army Exercises With U.S. *[ITAR-TASS]* 13
- Cooperation Plans With U.S. National Security Council *[IZVESTIYA 12 Apr]* 13
- Gromov, Dubinin to Ukraine To 'Put an End' to Incident *[Radio Rossii]* 14
  - Navy Command Wants Ukraine Payment *[ITAR-TASS]* 14
  - Duma Speaker Demands Ships' Release *[INTERFAX]* 14
  - Fleet Command Protests *[POSTFACTUM]* 14
- Embassy in Rwanda Evacuated to Burundi *[Radio Rossii]* 15
  - Moscow Condemns 'Slaughter' *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
- Military Chief Holds Talks in Beijing *[ITAR-TASS]* 15
- Deputy Foreign Minister Views Beijing Talks *[ITAR-TASS]* 16
- Yeltsin, Grachev, Lebed Discuss Base in Moldova *[Bucharest Radio]* 16
- Ministry Cites CFE Treaty on Kaliningrad Troops *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 16

RUSSIA NATIONAL AFFAIRS

Political Issues

Yavlinskiy Bloc To Oppose Draft Budget for 1994 *[INTERFAX]* 18
Filatov Confirms Blacklist of 151 Former Deputies *[ITAR-TASS]* 18
Court Ruling on Coup 'Scenario No. 1' Publication *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 12 Apr]* 18
Zorkin Lists Requirements for 'National Accord' *[PRAVDA 9 Apr]* 19
Former Prosecutor Kazannik's 'Latest Revelations' *[KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA 12 Apr]* 20
Urban Adults Polled on Perceptions of Government *[KURANTY 9 Apr]* 21
Yeltsin To Publish Book *[INTERFAX]* 21
Yeltsin Advisor Heinrich Views Russian Politics *[cross-reference]* 21

Military & Nuclear Issues

Russia Not Testing, Producing Nuclear Weapons *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Radiation Official on Conditions at Nuclear Stations *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Official Details Effects of Chernobyl Disaster *[ITAR-TASS]* 22
Grachev on Size, Role of Army; Fatalities *[Moscow TV]* 22
Officials 'Alarmed' by Army Economic Situation *[INTERFAX]* 24

Regional Affairs

Apparatchiks Lead Nizhniy Novgorod Duma Poll *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 9 Apr]* 24
Poll Shows Improved Living Conditions in Chelyabinsk *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Apr]* 25
St. Petersburg Election Analyzed *[SANKT PETERBURGSKIYE VEDOMOSTI 6 Apr]* 25
    Election Protested *[NEVSKOYE VREMYA 6 Apr]* 25
Maritime Kray Governor Interviewed *[KRASNOYE ZNAMYA 6 Apr]* 26
Transdniester Government Proposes Russian Army Base *[INTERFAX]* 26
Tatarstan's Oil Industry in 'Grave Crisis' *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 27
Radioactive Waste Dumping Developments *[KRASNOYE ZNAMYA 6 Apr]* 27

UKRAINE

International Affairs

Navy's Second-in-Charge Arrested Following Incident *[AFP]* 29
Black Sea Fleet Leader Seeks Stabilization in Odessa *[ITAR-TASS]* 29
Russian Report of Odessa Incident 'Provocation' *[UNIAR]* 29
Russia Protests Odessa Fleet Incident *[INTERFAX]* 30
Black Sea Fleet Division Reorganized as Ukraine Navy *[ITAR-TASS]* 30
Russian Detainees Released; Commandos Control Unit *[Radio Rossii]* 30
Military Chiefs: Ministry Tried To Avoid Conflict *[Kiev Radio]* 31
Defense Minister on Control of Remaining Nuclear Arms *[ITAR-TASS]* 31

National Affairs

Plyushch Speaks on Role of Parliament, Prime Minister *[UNIAR]* 31
Left-Wing Bloc Wins 112 Seats in New Parliament *[INTERFAX]* 31
Politicians Comment on Election Results *[INTERFAX]* 32
    Rukh Leader Views Results *[Kiev Radio]* 32
Crimea Elections Reported Valid *[UNIAN]* 32
    Parties React *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 7 Apr]* 33
    Returns Detailed *[Kiev Radio]* 33
Kravchuk Discusses 'Executive Presidential Power' *[Kiev TV]* 34
Kravchuk Notes Lack of Economic Reforms in Crimea *[HOLOS UKRAYINY 8 Apr]* 35
Kravchuk, Chernomyrdin To Meet on Odessa Incident *[Kiev Radio]* 35
    Situation 'Under Full Control' *[Kiev Radio]* 35
Crimea Support for Kuchma Bloc Advocated *[KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA 7 Apr]* 36
Communists Threaten Opponents *[POST-INFORM 1 Apr]* 36

WESTERN REGION

Belarus

Slavic Assembly To Picket U.S. Embassy *[Minsk Radio]* 37
Security Council To Postpone Decision on 'Partnership' *[BELAPAN]* 37
UN Butrus-Ghali Visit To Belarus Viewed *[NARODNAYA GAZETA 7 Apr]* 37
Hryb Views Monetary Unification Issues *[INTERFAX]* 37

Moldova

Presidential Adviser Comments on Snegur-Smirnov Talks *[INTERFAX]* 38

CENTRAL ASIA

Kazakhstan

Paper Assesses Nazarbayev's Japan Visit *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 40
Nazarbayev Urges Faster Economic Reform *[SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA 7 Apr]* 40
Presidential Decree on Land Rights *[KAZTAG]* 41
    Land Official Comments *[KAZTAG]* 42
Nazarbayev Issues Edict on Residential Housing Rights *[Almaty Radio]* 42
Opposition To Promote Building 'a Democratic Society' *[PRAVDA 12 Apr]* 43

Kyrgyzstan

United States To Deliver 100 Tons of Grain to Bishkek *[ITAR-TASS]* 43
President on Need To Strengthen All Levels of Government *[INTERFAX]* 43

Tajikistan

Talks Continue in Moscow; Agenda Studied *[Dushanbe Radio]* 43
Homes of High-Ranking Officials Fired Upon *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
Frontier Guards Skirmish With Afghan 'Commandos' *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
New 'People's Party' Announces 'Strategic Goal' *[ITAR-TASS]* 44
New Party's Political Priorities *[INTERFAX]* 44

Uzbekistan

Karimov Bans Russian Bank Notes *[INTERFAX]* 45

CAUCASUS

Armenia

Azeris Said 'Deliberately' Using Force *[SNARK]* 46
    Attacks, Air Raids Reported *[Yerevan Radio]* 46
    Parliament Seeks To Condemn Air Raids *[Yerevan Radio]* 46
Premier, Parties Debate Economic Reform *[GOLOS ARMENII 5 Apr]* 47
Controversy on Draft Prompts Sargisyan Comments *[SNARK]* 49
Progress, Problems in Creating Army Viewed *[IZVESTIYA 9 Apr]* 49
Independent Russian-Language Paper Launched *[SNARK]* 50

Azerbaijan

Three Killed in Azeri Air Strike on Stepanakert *[INTERFAX]* 50
    Attacks in North Continue *[ITAR-TASS]* 50
    Further Details *[Baku Radio]* 50
Aliyev Visits Front Areas, Meets Local Leaders *[TURAN]* 51
    To Meet Shevardnadze *[INTERFAX]* 51
Possibility of Russian Military Bases Examined *[TURAN]* 51

Georgia

Shevardnadze: Air Strikes 'Serious Warning' *[ITAR-TASS]* 51
Shevardnadze on Domestic, Foreign Policies *[Tbilisi Radio]* 52
Abkhazian Scouts Killed in Latest Fighting *[IBERIA]* 54
Abkhazia Leader on Peacekeeping Issues *[ITAR-TASS]* 54
Talks with Abkhazia To Continue in Geneva 12 Apr *[INTERFAX]* 55
Envoy Expresses 'Irritation' at Russian Role *[ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI 12 Apr]* 55
Pessimism About Abkhazian Peace Prospects *[IZVESTIYA 7 Apr]* 56
Shevardnadze 'Live Dialogue' Interview *[Moscow TV]* 57
Communists Win S. Ossetia Parliament Elections *[Moscow Radio]* 61
Cabinet Decrees Creation of Demographic Body *[SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA 31 Mar]* 61
Social Democrats: 'Eurasian Community' Concept *[SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA 1 Apr]* 62
More on Explosion at SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA Office *[IZVESTIYA 12 Apr]* 63

BALTIC STATES

Estonia

Ministry: NATO Air Strike 'Inevitable Decision' *[ETA]* 64
Laar Returns From Visit, Talks in Norway *[BNS]* 64
Laar, Minister Meet With World Bank Delegation *[BNS]* 64
Luik To Seek World Support in Troop Withdrawal *[INTERFAX]* 64
Accord on Paldiski Reactors 'Almost Reached' *[BNS]* 65
Government Agrees To Study RAHVA HAAL *[ETA]* 65
Protests at Russian Headquarters To Continue *[ETA]* 65
Rural Center Party, Pro Patria To Sign Agreement *[BNS]* 65

Latvia

Minister Links Future Russian Summit to Bases *[INTERFAX]* 66
    Bases Conflict With Russia Not Closed *[BNS]* 66
    Commander: Withdrawal on Schedule *[Riga Radio]* 66
    Alteration of Yeltsin Edict Sought *[Riga Radio]* 67
Russian Explosives Said Left Unguarded at Depots *[DIENA 29 Mar]* 67
Talks With U.S. Envoy on Relations with Russia *[Riga Riga]* 67
Aid for Dismantling Skrunda Building Available *[Riga Radio]* 68
Export to Russia Decreased by Customs Raise *[DIENA 5 Apr]* 68
Birkavs Returns From Geneva, Comments on Talks *[BNS]* 68
Ulmanis Visits Denmark in Quest of Funds *[Riga Radio]* 69
Ulmanis Appoints New President's Office Head *[BNS]* 69
Business Daily 'Target of Russian Mafia Threats' *[HUFVUDSTADSBLADET 7 Apr]* 69

Lithuania

Premier's Kuwait Visit Detailed *[ELTA]* 70
Brazauskas on Baltic Presidents' Palanga Summit *[ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA 9 Apr]* 70
Jursenas: Stand on Latvian Bases 'Effective' *[ELTA]* 71
IMF Extends New Loan *[BNS]* 71
Socialist Party Voices Support of Ruling LDDP *[TIESA 6 Apr]* 72
New Law on Land, State Ownership Criticized *[RESPUBLIKA 1 Apr]* 72
Foreign Investment Growing; Figures Detailed *[ELTA]* 73
Quarterly Inflation 'Considerably Lower' *[BNS]* 73

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 12 April

LD1204104494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0853 GMT 12 Apr 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—President Boris Yeltsin's current visit to Spain, NATO bombing raids on Serbian positions near the Bosnian city of Gorazde, and the Cosmonautics Day which is marked in Russia today are the leading topics in Moscow-based newspapers.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI on President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Spain. The newspaper points out that the Spanish journalists, upon the arrival of President Boris Yeltsin in Spain on Monday, drew the attention of their Russian counterparts to the fact that a Russo- Spanish treaty of friendship and cooperation would be signed in Moncloa Palace where the Moncloa Pact had been signed. The pact "made it possible to take Spain out of the crisis and lay foundations of civil peace".

We hope, they said, that an agreement on achieving civil accord in Russia, which is to be signed in Moscow on Yeltsin's initiative, "also has a chance to go down in the history of the motherland".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA on the bombing of Serbian positions in the area of Gorazde by U.S. F-16 jetfighters: "As Russia begins to play an increasingly active diplomatic role in the Balkans, the Western countries' attitude to the Serbs grows tougher. "This time Russia has been confronted with an acomplished fact, for fear, probably, that a military conflict would be prevented diplomatically with her help. "Some people do not like, apparently, that Russia ceases to be an obedient executor of Western countries' decisions and tries to play solo in the diplomatic orchestra".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA (Independent Newspaper) on Russia's not being consulted about air strikes in Gorazde area. "The failure to consult with Russia prior to the delivery of an air strike fits quite well into an increasingly distinct new U.S. attitude towards her. Nevertheless, no one, it seems, is in a hurry to write off her role in a settlement of the Balkan conflict".

TRUD and PRAVDA quote Yeltsin as saying at Vnukovo Airport prior to departure for Spain that "I insisted and continue to insist that such matters as the bombing of Serbian positions should not be decided upon without prior consultations between the United States and Russia".

Ukrainian-Russian-Belarusian Border Protection Pact

WS1204100194 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Chiefs of the Ukrainian, Russian, and Belarusian border protection agencies approved in Kiev today [word indistinct] of memorandum and a joint declaration by the leaders of those countries regarding cooperation in border protection, which is to be signed in Moscow on 15 April. The documents were drafted by the following experts: Lieutenant General Yevgeniy Bocharov, commander of the Belarusian Border Troops; Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, commander of the Russian Border Troops; and Army General Valeriy Hubenko, commander of the Ukrainian Border Troops.

The experts were received today by Ukrainian President Kravchuk. He praised the work of the border troops commanders and emphasized that at this point, no country is in a position to resolve on its own problems connected with the protection of people and territory, not to mention the fight against illegal contraband. This can only be accomplished by combined efforts of the special services of all three states.

Pilot Issue of New CIS Weekly Produced

PM1204102594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 2

["Own Information" report: "We Will Share the Newcomer with KOLOBOK"]

[Text] The pilot issue of the first official CIS weekly SNG: OBSHCHIY RYNOK [CIS: Common Market] was published today. The decision to publish it on the basis of OBSHCHAYA GAZETA was made by the Council of Heads of Government of the 12 states at the meeting held in Ashkhabad [Ashgabat] 23 December last year.

The economic weekly's start-up money comes from equal contributions paid in by the copublisher-states. The total sum for the current year is 950 million rubles and $200,000 (the foreign currency is for equipment). From next year the newspaper is to be a self-financing operation.

The editorial office of OBSHCHIY RYNOK, which finds itself in straitened circumstances (three desks and one phone for four people, which are shared with the magazine KOLOBOK), nevertheless decided not to postpone publishing a proper version but to make the pilot issue as close to the real thing as possible. It carries articles from all 12 states and devotes pages to policy statements. The new publication's journalists think that they will be able to start regular publication in the very near future.

Yeltsin Warns of 'Eternal War' in Bosnia

LD1204134994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1339 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Alexandrova, Nikita Yermakov, Yuriy Sizov, Vladimir Shekhovtsov]

[Text] Madrid April 12 TASS—Russia so far does not link the Bosnian situation with the Russian joining of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Russian President Boris Yeltsin told a news conference here today. However, Russia does not hurry to sign the program.

Speaking of relations with the Serbs, the president noted the most important now is to prevent them from greater confrontation and further combat operations. Yeltsin said they are working in this sphere and Russian representative Vitaliy Churkin is permanently staying in the conflict zone. As need be Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev may leave for the conflict zone on Thursday.

If greater confrontation is prevented and the crisis is discussed at political negotiations, there will be no more bombing. A political way out of the situation should be found through negotiations; "force will not solve the problem, it will be an eternal war. Those who did the bombing will be responsible in case of aggravation," stressed the president.

Yeltsin: Situation 'Slightly Quieter'

LD1204100094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0906 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Nikita Yermakov, Yuriy Sizov, and Vladimir Shekhovtsov]

[Text] Madrid, 12 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The situation in Bosnia is now slightly quieter, according to Russian President Boris Yeltsin. He spoke briefly to journalists at Madrid city hall today, when asked to give his assessment of the situation following the NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions.

"The shooting has stopped, so let us hope that this will not, after all, lead to greater confrontation and greater bloodshed," the president continued. "This is our hope. Russia will act accordingly." He disclosed that consultations will be held with UN Secretary- General Butrus Butrus-Ghali and with U.S. President Bill Clinton, "so that this does not happen again."

Rules Out Use of Force

LD1204123994 Madrid RNE-1 Radio Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Excerpts] The news conference in the Moncloa palace given by Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and Russian leader Boris Yeltsin, has just ended. [passage omitted] The situation in Bosnia and the allied air strikes were obvious subjects dealt with by Felipe Gonzalez and Boris Yeltsin. Angel Garcia reports from the Moncloa Palace:

[Garcia] Boris Yeltsin made clear reference to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovia. Yeltsin expressed his discontent and disagreement to U.S. President Bill Clinton and he also said that only a negotiated solution could be considered and he ruled out the use of force in Bosnia. At the same time he said that if the conflict escalated, responsibility would fall on those who have carried out these attacks. However, according to Yeltsin, the most important factor in the situation in Yugoslavia is to keep the Serbs away from the military confrontation.

[Begin Yeltsin recording in Russian with superimposed Spanish translation by Garcia] Our envoy Vitaliy Churkin is already there, Yeltsin says, and perhaps it will be necessary to send Foreign Minister Kozyrev there the day after tomorrow to ensure that the Serbs stay away from the military confrontation. [end recording]

[Garcia] Yeltsin also referred to NATO's peace association and he said that they were in no hurry to sign that document. [passage omitted]

Grachev Phones Perry

LD1104170594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1610 GMT 11 Apr 94

["Urgent"—by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Gondusov]

[Text] Moscow, 11 Apr—Speaking over the phone to U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev expressed his serious concern at the NATO air strike against Serb positions near the Bosnian town of Gorazde. The hot-line conversation took place at 1530, at the request of the U.S. side. Yelena Agapova, aide to the defense minister, told ITAR-TASS that [words indistinct] the use of military force, especially air force, will not yield positive results in resolving the conflict in this region. The Russian minister spoke in favor of bringing to the conflict zone additional ground troops for peacekeeping. Pavel Grachev noted at the same time that the conflicting sides should retreat to their previous positions, so that a demilitarized zone could be created.

Kozyrev Warns of Escalation

LD1104172794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1625 GMT 11 Apr 94

["Urgent" report by ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Nikita Yermakov, Yuriy Sizov, and Vladimir Shekhovtsov]

[Text] Madrid, 11 April—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said that he spoke from Madrid today to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The head of the Russian Foreign Ministry said he expressed his profound concern that the world may be engulfed in a very perilous situation of an exchange of blows and urged him to display utmost restraint. We believe that all the sides must renounce any use of force.

This equally applies to the Muslim side, which, unfortunately, provoked the Serb side in some localities. But of course we regard the shelling of towns by artillery as impermissible. At the same time, air strikes can have different results from those intended; that is, an escalation of the conflict instead of its suppression.

We are worried by the fact that the decision was made in a hurry, without taking into consideration possible consequences, the minister continued. Unfortunately, the UN Security Council's permanent members were not consulted. The responsibility for the grave consequences that can be expected rests, therefore, with those who took this decision.

All this is especially annoying because by last Saturday we already had signs of a possible political settlement, stressed Kozyrev. Russian representative Vitaliy Churkin is now in Pale, where he arrived after talks in Belgrade.

The foreign minister called on all sides to refrain from all military actions, including air strikes. He recalled that Russia and Spain are members of the so-called 'Yugoslav Five' within the UN Security Council. They have now agreed to act in close cooperation. Andrey Kozyrev ended by expressing hope that this critical situation will be overcome.

To make a decision on air strikes without Russia was "a big mistake and a great risk," the Russian minister added. In his words, he would not like to aggravate the situation, but he would like his words "to be understood correctly and taken very seriously."

Andrey Kozyrev recalled that Russia was the initiator of the practice of UN operations aimed at maintaining peace and of the principle to protect the peacekeeping forces by all possible means. We are not against using force to protect "the blue berets." It is a vitally important issue for Russia, the head of the Russian diplomacy stressed, and explained that many of our servicemen are participating in the peacekeeping forces in various conflict zones. We cannot allow them to be turned into hostages or targets for the conflicting sides. That is why we are firmly adhering to the position that the peacekeepers will be protected reliably.

It is a different matter as to what extent in this specific case there was now no other way out in Bosnia but to deliver an air strike and to what extent this was an optimal decision, the minister noted. That is why, in his opinion, consultations were needed, and even more so, they are being envisaged by the resolution of the UN Security Council. If we proceed from the fact that consultations should be held only when we wish to hear "yes," then what is left of the concept of consultations and cooperation?

Churkin Criticizes UN, Serbs

LD1104190094 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Apr 94

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpts] [Announcer] For the second time in the past two days NATO aircraft have bombed Bosnian Serb positions near the town of Gorazde. [passage omitted] Our correspondent Vladimir Solovyev spoke to Vitaliy Ivanovich Churkin:

[Begin recording] [Solovyev] Vitaliy Ivanovich, did Moscow know about the forthcoming airstrikes against Serb positions?

[Churkin] All last week we were following closely the situation around Gorazde, especially when it became aggravated. But in the crucial hours we did not know about any aggravation. The UN people explain this by the fact that everything happened very quickly. Two hours passed between General Rose's first warning that he was going to ask for air support and the actual air strikes. In this situation we have certain complaints about UN people, and Bosnian Serbs, for that matter, because when in the last few days we drew their attention to the impermissible, very dangerous and critical aggravation of the situation, their response was rather slack, they kept saying that nothing special was going to happen there and that they did not have any military plans for Gorazde.

I think that if Russia had been invited to tackle this crisis spot at the fateful moment, we could have directed the events in a different channel. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Foreign Ministry 'Examining' Situation

LD1104195794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1754 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry is carefully examining the situation related to the second bombardment of Serb positions near the city of Goradze carried out by the NATO air forces this afternoon. "Russia is observing the UN Security Council's resolution on Bosnia and Herzegovina. However, if it is found out that the bombardment could be avoided the reaction of Moscow will be tough," a high-ranking Russian diplomat told INTERFAX today.

He said that although it could not be affirmed with 100 percent certainty there was an impression that the NATO strikes had been dealt in order to frighten Bosnian Serbs.

"This aim has nothing to do with the peaceful settlement of the conflict. Moreover, the attacks against them make

Bosnian Serbs unwilling to negotiate. However, there is no doubt that Moslems have provoked the recent military action in Goradze. Serbs did not respond appropriately. The response of the UN forces for the defense of former Yugoslavia applied to the NATO air forces might turn out also to be inappropriate," the diplomat suggested.

He emphasized that the NATO air attacks against the Serb positions must be discussed by the UN Security Council. "Moscow will not accept being informed on decisions to utilize force in ex-Yugoslavia as a fait accompli. Russia is not a banana republic but a permanent member of the UN Security Council. We are convinced that all decisions on the use of force in former Yugoslavia must be considered by the Security Council. There is no reasonable alternative. Any other way may lead to a catastrophe," the diplomat said. He added that after two more such blows the peaceful settlement in Bosnia and Herzegovina would be disrupted.

Grachev, Lavrov Comment

LD1104204494

[Editorial report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1609 GMT on 11 April carries a 10-minute "Details" program, presented by Vera Kuznetsova, examining the chain of events leading to the NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb military positions, featuring interviews with Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov. "Details" program regular announcer Sergey Dorenko is shown among other journalists at a news conference given by Andrey Kozyrev in Spain today following NATO's second air strike.

Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov points out that "according to the UN Security Council's resolution, the UN secretary general should be making such a decision in consultations with members of the Security Council. No such consultations were held with Russia." Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev says: "Although it seems that all is correct from the legal point of view—there was a UN sanction, there were UN consultations in accordance with the UN resolution—everything is correct here. But from the moral, human point of view we believe that there was no need for these strikes. There are no peacekeeping forces there and no one to defend. There is one Ukrainian company, 93-strong, deployed 12 kilometers away in the southwest and only 12 UN representatives in Gorazde itself, who are no danger there. Moreover—knocking out two tanks—frankly, we can say that this was just a demonstration of power."

Answering Kuznetsova's question on whether Russia is being bypassed in the Yugoslav peace process, Lavrov says that this is an exaggeration. "When the Russian president has said for the first time that the Yugoslav problem cannot be solved without Russia's participation, you may recall that it was followed by Russia's success in easing the situation around Sarajevo. So, at that time no loss of Russia's prestige was suffered—rather the opposite." He goes on to say: "When the Russian president stated this today, for the second time, I think it was for the same reason—that our partners simply have not yet mastered the kind of partnership which we are trying to negotiate with them."

Pavel Grachev, in an "exclusive interview" to "Details" says that in his opinion the air strikes were not necessary from the political or from the military point of view. "U.S. Defense Secretary Perry has asked me to consult with him in the future for the sake of the Partnership for Peace program."

Dorenko then presents a fragment of Kozyrev's news conference in Madrid where he is shown among other journalists standing next to Kozyrev. Kozyrev says: "I had a conversation with U.S. Secretary General Christopher right here about one or two hours ago in which I expressed concern about the world being dragged into an extremely dangerous chain of exchanges of blows, and I asked the secretary of state to show maximum restraint. We believe that all sides should now immediately stop all military actions. This also means the Muslim side which, regrettably, is provoking the Serb side in a number of locations. Of course, we consider air strikes against the cities as being unacceptable, just as we do any threats against the UN forces. At the same time, it is most likely that the air strikes will bring results quite different from those that are probably expected from them. The responsibility for the possible grave consequences of these strikes—which, most regrettably, we are still awaiting—lies with those who made this decision."

UN Delegate Demands 'Explanations'

LD1204085294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0803 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[Text] United Nations April 12 TASS—It has been learned here from sources within U.N. lobbies that Russia's permanent representative on the United Nations Yuliy Vorontsov expressed profound regret, during a consultative meeting of the Security Council, that Russia was informed "post factum" on the decision to use military aircraft in the area of the Bosnian town of Gorazde. The Russian delegate called for an urgent report of the U.N. secretary-general to the Security Council on the details of the event.

The Russian side insistently demands explanations from the U.N. Secretariat on the practical implementation of the procedure for using military aircraft, envisaged by the council's decisions, including the need to hold consultations with its members. It wants to know what concrete targets were subjected to air strikes and what were the results of these blows, etc. The Russian side also wants to know whether there were victims among the civilian population.

Vorontsov stressed the impermissibility of violating the resolutions adopted by the Security Council on "safety enclaves" in Bosnia and Herzegovina, noting that, at the same time, it was wrong to connive at Muslim provocations, which were repeatedly recorded by U.N. representatives. He referred to the Security Council's call to all the sides involved in the conflict to stop provocations, contained in the latest statement by the council chairman, released on April 6. Vorontsov called for urgent measures in the Gorazde area—the deployment there of U.N. troops, withdrawal of Serb units from their present positions, demilitarisation of this "safety enclave", including the disarmament of Muslim units now active there.

Vorontsov stressed that the Russian side believed it was the duty of the Security Council to actively contribute to the achievement of these goals. He noted that Russia, as a direct and active participant of the Bosnian settlement, wanted to prevent the escalation of this conflict and expected more vigorous efforts by the world community to indicate the way to peace to all the sides involved in the conflict.

Foreign Ministry: Russia Not 'Junior Partner'

LD1204115194 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1058 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr (TASS)—Russia will never be reconciled to the role of "a younger partner", who is informed after the event about such vital decisions as the use of armed force. Grigoriy Karasin, the director of the Information and Press Department of the RF Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made this statement today at a briefing for Russian and foreign journalists.

"We are opposed to the practice of Russia being consulted only in order to get an affirmative 'yes' from us," the diplomat said. "We have naturally reached the appropriate conclusions from what occurred on 10th and 11th April in the region of Gorazde."

Shakhray Criticizes Airstrike

LD1204060494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The leader of Russia's Unity and Concord faction in the Duma, Deputy Premier Sergey Shakhray has spoken out against bombing Serb positions at the Bosnian town of Gorazde. Talking to newsmen on Monday, he suggested that such actions are very dangerous and only lead to resentment and indignation. He is convinced that in making such a decision, the mechanisms envisaged by the UN Charter should be set into motion, which necessitates a Security Council resolution.

This is not the way to settle conflicts, the issue would be only aggravated by a decision to bomb, Shakhray said. In his assessment an air strike would slow down the process of negotiations with the Bosnian Serbs, and everything would have to be started all over again.

[Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian at 0800 GMT on 12 April adds: "Those who decided to call in air strikes bear personal responsibility for the breakdown of the peaceful settlement through a process of negotiation, Sergey Shakhray, leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord, said to an Ekho Moskvy correspondent. He said that bypassing Russia to act is a slap in the face to the Russian president. Shakhray believes that the air strikes hit not only Serb positions but the internal political situation in Russia as well. He does not rule out that the latest events in Bosnia could also affect the process of reforms at home."]

Duma Demands Halt to Force

LD1204125494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1153 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow April 12 TASS—The press service of the State Duma (lower chamber of the Russian parliament) today released the following statement by Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin:

"The exact number of victims of NATO air strikes at Serb positions near the Bosnian town of Gorazde is still unknown. The military losses and the number or existence of civilian casualties have not been reported. But the new facts, testifying to attempts to again fan up the conflict by means of armed force, have resounded with pain in the hearts of the Russian people.

The arising situation gives food for various aspects of alarm: NATO has easily ignored not only the view of Russia, but also the achieved agreements; this threatens to ruin the process of the peaceful political settlement of the bloody knot of problems in Europe, begun with such hard efforts by the world community. Moreover, preventive blows, when people are killed on the grounds that a dangerous situation could have otherwise arisen, can far from always be justified from the moral point of view.

The State Duma of the Russian Federal Assembly, vested with the people's trust and expressing the view of the majority of the Russian nation, does not intend to assume the stand of a passive onlooker in the situation, which has arisen on the territory of the former Yugoslavia.

We demand an immediate end to the unilateral, unsanctioned use of military force by the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and urge the parliaments of all the states of the world to actively contribute to the process of achieving a peaceful political settlement of the Yugoslavian crisis.
[signed] Ivan Rybkin
[dated] April 12, 1994"

Duma's Lukin Views Situation

LD1204124894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Krasnoshchekov]

[Text] Strasbourg, 12 Apr—The NATO decision on air strikes in Bosnia-Herzegovina, at the very moment when ways to resolve the Bosnian conflict have just emerged, is very unfortunate, badly timed, and therefore causes disappointment, Vladimir Lukin, chairman of the committee for international affairs of the State Duma, told ITAR-TASS. He is in Strasbourg with a Russian parliamentary delegation, which is taking part in the regular session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe here.

First, procedural and legal aspects of these actions are unclear, Lukin said. As we know, the UN Security Council has decided that such actions are possible, as long as they are sanctioned by the UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali following consultations with the Security Council and are to achieve tangible, definite goals. That is why I believe that one should convene the Security Council and find out whether these actions are in line with the adopted resolution. I seriously doubt it though. Besides, they were undertaken without preliminary consultations, including those with Russia.

Lukin also stressed the other serious aspect of this problem. Such actions had been attempted for the first time in Sarajevo, but they had then been blocked—mainly because of the active efforts of Russian diplomacy—he recalled. Following that, a special envoy of the Russian Federation president made some effective steps, and the crisis around Sarajevo was thus resolved. The same happened in the Serb Krajina. One would think that a way has been found to defuse such critical situations that imminently occur in a civil war.

"Therefore, when the situation in Gorazde aggravated again—and here I admit that the Serb side, some Serb commanders, may have been at fault—it was necessary to take additional steps in order to give an immediate boost to the peace process. That is exactly what Russia has done," Lukin said.

A special Russian Federation presidential envoy sent to Belgrade held very serious and intensive conversations there. Exactly at the same time, the blow—not agreed with anyone—was dealt. This looks very much like a provocation. Such an air strike will unavoidably complicate the situation and excite the right wing of all hues—both Serb, Muslim, and foreign, Lukin concluded.

Croatia-Krajina Talks Postponed

LD1204104894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0954 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Zagreb, 12 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—The second round of talks between representatives of the Croatian authorities and the Republic of Serb Krajina [RSK] in Croatia, which were to have been held at Russia's diplomatic mission here today, have been postponed. This has been disclosed by the Russian Embassy in Zagreb, which added that the specific reasons for the postponement would be given at a news conference to be held today by representatives of Russia, the United States, and the European Union—the mediators in the conflict.

Local diplomatic circles link this postponement directly to the recent NATO air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions on the outskirts of the city of Gorazde, which has led to a serious deterioration in the situation throughout former Yugoslavia.

As we know, the first round of talks between the Croats and representatives of Serb Krajina, in which Vitaliy Churkin, the Russian president's special representative, played a direct part, successfully culminated in the signing of a truce. The truce came into force on 4 April and has been strictly observed up to now. It had been expected that a number of important questions consolidating peaceful coexistence between Krajina and Croatia—above all the restoration of trade and economic ties, which have been more or less severed—would be discussed during the second round of talks.

Anti-U.S. Demonstration in Petersburg

LD1104171894 St. Petersburg Fifth Channel Television Network in Russian 1530 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Video report by correspondent Yuriy Zinchuk on demonstration at U.S. consulate in St. Petersburg]

[Text] At 1800 this evening, representatives of virtually all opposition parties with branches in St. Petersburg gathered outside the U.S. consulate. The aim of the picketing was to protest against U.S. actions against Serbia.

[Unidentified demonstrator] It is a slap in the face. It is like some kind of childish babble. Clinton did not give a warning; it was not agreed. This should be decided by the UN Security Council. What kind of action is that—bombing?

[Zinchuk] The workers in the U.S. consulate were quite calm about the protest. Having read the posters of the pickets with curiosity from the window, they all returned to their work. The opposing side is more resolutely minded. As the organizers of this protest stated, they intend to put pickets under the Stars and Stripes of the U.S. consulate every day from 1800 to 2100 until the Russian Foreign Ministry issues a protest note to the U.S. Government. [Video shows about 100 demonstrators, some holding banners reading "American! Leave alone Slavonic earth" [in English], "The USA—Satan's nest. Yankee—go home", "Hands off Serbia", "The Russian National-Republican Party is against NATO bombings in Bosnian Serbia", "Yankee! Dont't stick your nose into Slavonic countries", and "The United States is the world gendarme, Clinton is a murderer"]

Solton Commentary

LD1104133294 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Yuriy Solton commentary on 10 April Bosnian air strike]

[Text] U.S. F-16 fighter planes under NATO's command attacked Serb positions in the suburbs of the Bosnian city of Gorazde on Sunday. Yuriy Solton comments on the situation there, and this is what he writes:

Heavy fighting has lasted for about two weeks around Gorazde, declared by the United Nations as one of the securiy areas in Bosnia. The lives of 60,000 civilians and United Nations personnel there are in danger. At the request of the United Nations Protection Force commander General Rose, who referred to previous United Nations Security Council resolutions, NATO aircraft have bombed Serb positions for the first time in two years. United Nations Secretary General Butrus-Ghali was notifed of the measure.

A bombing of the Bosnian Serb positions has seriously worsened the situation in Bosnia. President Boris Yeltsin has voiced serious concern. At six o'clock on Monday morning Moscow time he discussed the situation with President Bill Clinton. And this is what President Yeltsin said before leaving for Spain:

There are several fundamental principles one must always bear in mind. Firstly, all measures must be taken in strict compliance to the United Nations resolutions. We are for discussing that question in the United Nations Security Council. I told Mr. Clinton more than once that such measures can't be taken without prior consultation between United States and Russia. And we insist on this.

On the eve of the attack the warring Serb and Muslim factions in the area of Gorazde signed a 24-hour ceasefire agreement. The Serb community leader, Radavan Karadzic, has suggested making the agreement universal, spreading it to the whole Serb-Muslim frontline in Bosnia. The Muslims dismissed the proposal. And this was followed by NATO's air raid.

The developments in Bosnia are at a crossroads. At this very moment it's being decided whether the Bosnian Republic will choose the road of peace or the road of war. That hasty military action without prior discussions in the United Nations Security Council is pushing the country into a war. The leaders of the Serb community have described the air strike as aggression. All contacts with the United Nations Protection Force have been broken. The peace talks between the warring factions have been suspended. In the meantime NATO's headquarters has warned there may be more air strikes.

Armed intervention from outside will fail to bring either party to the negotiating table. And it's only negotiations that can produce a political solution.

The special Russian presidential envoy, Vitaliy Churkin, is holding negotiations in former Yugoslavia. His meetings with political leaders there are expected to clear up the situation and find a peaceful way out, as it was the case with the lifting of the siege of Sarajevo and opening Tuzla airport to United Nations forces.

Moscow TV Commentary

LD1104134794 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1100 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Commentary by Igor Rostovtsev; From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] This air strike has become the first occurrence of using NATO combat airplanes against ground-based targets in Bosnia. Though in purely military terms this operation can be described as small-scale, its political reverberations have been far stronger. It was stated that the United Nation's priority was to ensure the safety of the international forces stationed in the crisis area; however, there were civilian casualties. The Serbs will not be intimidated, they reserve the right to defend themselves using all the weapons at their disposal, says the statement of the high command of the Serb republic.

Can this attack mean the start of a wide international confrontation with the Bosnian Serbs? No doubt the decision to strike or not to strike, as, incidentally, it is the case in adopting any other tough measures, is within the competence of the United Nations.

That is why one is bewildered by the fact that such actions are being implemented without a proper agreement with all its members. How else can one interpret the fact that no consultations had been held before the bombardment between Russia and the United States—the two countries that should of course act in consensus in order to restore peace in former Yugoslavia.

Yugoslav Parliamentarian on Results of Moscow Visit

PM1204082794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 3

[Leonid Mlechin report: "Bloodshed in Bosnia Will Continue Because It Is Not a Religious or an Ethnic War but a Battle for Land"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] The Serb offensive on Gorazde, the NATO aerial bombardment, and the Bosnian Serbs' refusal to deal with the United Nations have dealt Belgrade's diplomacy a grave blow. A delegation from the lower chamber of the Yugoslav parliament has just been to Moscow and left taking with them the most optimistic impressions.

"The main Duma factions promised us support on what is the main issue for us—the lifting of sanctions," Radoman Bozovic, chairman of the Yugoslav parliament's lower chamber, told IZVESTIYA. "Russian deputies realize that sanctions were introduced simply to punish the Serbs."

The Belgrade politician also thinks that Russian diplomats have changed their approach to Yugoslavia's problems:

"Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his deputy Vitaliy Churkin told us that they consider the lifting of sanctions an inalienable part of the peacemaking process. Following the December elections, Russian diplomacy has taken a more realistic stance on Yugoslavia."

Radoman Bozovic gave IZVESTIYA an interview in the half-empty Yugoslav Embassy building in Moscow, where there are just a few diplomats left owing to the sanctions and where Kozyrev, the Vatican, and the Americans are cursed and tales told about the genocide of Serbs. Politicians and professional propaganda personnel speak significantly and only too often about Slav unity, which people in Belgrade only recalled after sanctions were introduced against Serbia. The main task facing Belgrade's diplomacy is to pit Russia against the West.

The representatives of Yugoslavia against which the UN sanctions have been imposed are not very well received worldwide. The 41-year old Radoman Bozovic, who used to teach the theory of economic development, was elected chairman of the parliament's lower chamber a year ago and this is his first official visit abroad.

"We told Kozyrev and Churkin that the Bosnian Serbs and Serb Krajina (an enclave on Croatia's territory) must have the same right to self-determination as the other peoples of the former Yugoslavia," Radoman Bozovic said. "If the Bosnian Muslims or the Croats can have their own state, then why should the Bosnian Serbs be denied that?"

Yeltsin Addresses Madrid Dinner Given by Juan Carlos

LD1104214594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2010 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Nikita Yermakov, Yuriy Sizov, and Vladimir Shekhovtsov]

[Text] Madrid, 11 April—Today Russian President Boris Yeltsin expressed satisfaction that "Spain will figure strongly in Russian foreign policy." He spoke at an official dinner given in his honor by the Spanish King Juan Carlos I, in the Palacio de Oriente.

According to the Russian leader, the present visit "will become a turning point in the history of relations between the two countries." Prospects for the stable development of Russian-Spanish cooperation, which is a long-term one and is not affected by political considerations, are becoming clearer.

Boris Yeltsin noted that a treaty on friendship and cooperation between Russia and Spain, which will be signed in Madrid on 12 April, will become the legal basis for this new stage in bilateral cooperation. This fundamental document "will open wide horizons for interaction between our countries in various spheres."

For a long time the peoples of Russia and Spain were forced to live under systems of dictatorial state power that were hostile to each other. Numerous obstacles and bans were put on the path toward mutual rapprochement. "The Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation is the result of the triumph of democracy both in Russia and Spain," the president said.

In his opinion, the unique experience that allowed Spain to be transformed into a stable, law-based, democratic state with a developed economy is very valuable for Russia. Now Spain is integrated into the European system. It plays a noticeable role in the European processes and occupies a worthy place in the world community.

He welcomed the involvement and active role of Madrid in international affairs and expressed readiness to join efforts in order to "jointly take part in tackling difficult international problems."

Boris Yeltsin stressed that the new Russia is becoming a full-fledged member of the community of democratic states. "We want," he continued, "this process to meet our national interests and the goals of building a new order based on mature strategic partnership to a greater degree."

Having noted the difficulty of Russia's integration into world economic relations, the president stressed that this process will require "mutual adaptation—a political, economic, and psychological one. We count on the fact that leaders in the West have the political courage to do what is necessary to resolve this."

A mutually beneficial dialogue between the leadership of Russia and Spain on most topical issues of modern times has become traditional, the head of the Russian state said. He expressed confidence that the establishment of a direct line of communications between the Kremlin and the Moncloa Palace—an agreement on which was signed today by the foreign ministers of the two countries—will allow it to be given a greater sense of urgency and regularity. "We will be able to cooperate more closely and constructively in the sphere of international relations, both in building a peaceful, unified, democratic Europe and in establishing a new world order."

Boris Yeltsin reported that a grand monument to Columbus, "which will be soon erected in Seville according to a design by our sculptor Tsereteliy," will be a sign that Russia recognizes Spain's eternal contribution toward the formation of a modern civilization.

Yeltsin To 'Meet' Doctors

PM1104170194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 1

[Vladimir Vernikov and Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Boris Yeltsin Will Be Doing His Job in Spain, Not Visiting the Doctor"]

[Text] Madrid—The Russian president's first official visit to Spain will be brief, businesslike, and with a relatively small delegation—the foreign minister and the minister of foreign economic relations.

Yeltsin's main tasks are to reinforce the political mutual understanding between our countries and to get economic cooperation moving. He will meet with King Juan Carlos and Premier Felipe Gonzalez and will sign the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation that was initialed in Moscow back in April 1992.

But this relates to the political side of the visit; as for economic relations, these will boil down to the expression of good intentions. According to every indicator, the level of mutual trade—which was not distinguished by any great achievements in any case—simply collapsed last year. Russian exports were almost entirely made up of raw materials, and sales of machinery and equipment fell. At the same time, Russian imports from Spain—with foodstuffs predominant—almost doubled. Over the past year trade turnover between our countries has fallen 46 percent.

According to the Russian delegation members, Boris Yeltsin will not be raising the question of "unfreezing" the unused part of the $1.5-billion Spanish loan granted to the USSR in 1990. By early 1993 Moscow had not repaid its debt on the half of this sum that has already been "consumed." Moreover, the Spanish Government has no spare cash. So in practice Oleg Davydov, minister of foreign economic relations, has very little room for maneuver on achieving a breakthrough in the development of trade relations with Spain.

On other point: The Russian president, contrary to the considerable speculation about his health, will not be undergoing medical treatment at the Barcelona hospital where he underwent an operation in 1990. He will not even be visiting it. But Yeltsin will meet at his residence with the doctors who treated him.

Signs Friendship Treaty

LD1204115494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1100 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] In Madrid today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Spanish Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the two countries. This morning the Russian president laid a wreath at the memorial to those who sacrificed their lives for Spain. Then he visited Madrid city hall. In his speech Boris Yeltsin stressed that Russia strives for the development of diverse ties with Spain, on the basis of cordiality, mutual liking, and warmth between the peoples of the two countries. The Russian president also held a meeting with members of the presidium and leaders of parliamentary groups in the Spanish Congress of Deputies.

He also addressed representatives of both chambers of the General Cortes. This evening Boris Yeltsin will meet with Spanish businessmen, RIA reports.

Denies Poor Health

LD1204140194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1300 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] The news conference of the Russian and Spanish leaders ended in Madrid an hour ago. Boris Yeltsin and Felipe Gonzalez spoke about the development of relations between our two countries and about the documents they had signed. They also answered questions from journalists. Among other things, Boris Yeltsin was asked about his health. Here is what the Russian president replied.

[Begin Yeltsin recording] I would like to wish every person to be as healthy as I am at my age. Can someone who constantly plays tennis very hard for an hour and a half at a time—and mind you, playing against masters of sports and honored masters of sports; someone who swims in the Black Sea in March, with the water temperature at four degrees; can someone who does all this be in poor health? Someone who works 16 to 18 hours a day, virtually without any days off. You have got to envy me! Here's what I told the doctors: This year, let us arrange a 24-hour health check, to be attended by all journalists who so desire. Any lab, you know, blood test, come on then, whatever, so much urine [Yeltsin laughs]; and so on, for 24 hours, so that not just Russia but the whole world may know what I've got inside me. [end recording]

Kozyrev, Solana Sign Agreements

LD1104193594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1903 GMT 11 Apr 94

[by ITAR-TASS special correspondent]

[Text] Madrid April 11 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Spanish counterpart Javier Solana held talks in Madrid today.

At the end of the talks, the heads of foreign ministries of the two countries signed a package of Russian-Spanish documents, which included a treaty on social welfare, an agreement on cooperation in the sphere of culture and education, an agreement on cooperation in the social and labour sphere, an agreement on environmental protection. Under one of the agreements, Russia and Spain will establish a hot line between the Kremlin and the Moncloa Palace, the residence of the Spanish prime minister.

Javier Solana expressed his satisfaction with the meeting with Andrey Kozyrev. We signed five agreements, the minister said. Russian-Spanish meetings will be viewed as a positive factor in bringing bilateral relations to new heights when a basic Russian-Spanish treaty and the sixth agreement are signed on Tuesday.

The two sides exchanged views on the situation in former Yugoslavia, relations between Russia and NATO, the situation in the Middle East and the role of the United Nations. The Spanish foreign minister noted the importance of the talks which revealed the common position on many problems. The Russian foreign minister agreed with this assessment made by his Spanish counterpart.

Economic Cooperation Treaty Signed

LD1204105094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1032 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Lyudmila Aleksandrova, Nikita Yermakov, Yuriy Sizov, and Vladimir Shekhovtsov]

[Text] Madrid, 12 Apr (ITAR-TASS)—An agreement on economic and industrial cooperation was signed by Oleg Davydov, Russia's minister for foreign economic relations, and Javier Gomez-Navarro, minister of commerce and tourism of spain, today.

This document envisions specifically that the sides will facilitate contacts between enterprises, organizations, and individuals from the two countries. It has been decided to devote particular attention to dealing with the problems of small and medium-sized enterprises and to encourage events such as fairs, specialized exhibitions, and symposiums.

An intergovernmental mixed commission on economic and industrial cooperation is being set up under the agreement. It will assemble no less than once a year, in Russia and Spain by turn.

Commercial and economic relations between the two countries have been curtailed recently, to a considerable extent because of Russia's debt to Spain. However, Russia has a positive trade balance with Spain. The raw materials drive in Russia's exports is being maintained, most of which is oil. Russian imports from Spain still consist of vehicles, equipment, and foodstuffs.

The Spanish side notes the interest of the country's business community in operating in the Russian market, but also notes their caution on this. This is connected to the instability of Russian legislation and the lack of proper guarantees for foreign investors.

According to EL PAIS newspaper, Spanish businessmen are hoping first and foremost for the provision of reliable conditions for capital investment in Russia and a stable customs policy.

Of 74 registered Russian-Spanish mixed enterprises, less than ten are actually operating. However, the experience of those who are already functioning in Russia demonstrates that there is great potential for cooperation in the economic sphere.

Chernomyrdin Statements on G-7, EU Membership

PM1104100194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 8 Apr 94 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Russia Intends To Join European Union"]

[Text] At talks in Moscow with a delegation of U.S. parliamentarians headed by Richard Gephardt, leader of the Republican minority in the U.S. Congress, Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin reaffirmed the Russian Federation's intention to seek the G-7's transformation at its next summit in Naples into a G-8 with Russian participation. Reporting on the conversation held behind closed doors Valeriy Grishin, first deputy leader of the Russian Federation Government's Press Service, said that the statement by the head of the cabinet was met with understanding and support by the U.S. parliamentarians.

V. Chernomyrdin also stressed that the Russian Government has not counted on foreign credits, and is not doing so. In this context he noted that the question of the allocation to Russia by the IMF of the second part of the system credits, worth $1.5 billion, "largely bears a political character." The head of the cabinet remarked that there are forces in the United States which are attempting to restrict the Russian Federation's access to, and undermine its role in, world markets. The premier said that Russia is not interested in privileges, but in equal partnership opportunities in trade.

In V. Grishin's words, the U.S. congressmen expressed support for the course of reforms being carried out by V. Chernomyrdin's government.

The statement by Russian Federation Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin that Russia is ready to submit its application for membership of the European Union [EU] provoked animated discussions at EU headquarters in Brussels. This statement from the Russian premier at a press conference on the results of his visit to Budapest was interpreted here as sensational.

A press relations aide to European Commission Member Hans van den Broek noted in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent that right now the union has no answers to a whole range of questions linked to EU expansion. This is attested by the difficulties over the accession of Austria, Finland, Sweden, and Norway. He recalled that Cyprus, Turkey, and Malta have long been waiting in line for EU membership. Talks on the further expansion of the EU will hardly begin before 1996, when a conference on bringing the union's institutions into line with realities arising subsequent to the Maastricht agreements is scheduled.

As for Russia, the EU representative stressed, it has completely different dimensions to any other European country. An agreement on EU cooperation with Russia should undoubtedly be concluded. But the accession to the union of such a big country with a mighty and extremely specific economy is hard to envisage even in the long term. Even if the EU does somehow manage to "swallow" Hungary and Poland, in the case of Russia the question arises: "Who is to join whom?"

Kostikov Urges Linking G7, Partnership for Peace

LD0804152394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1412 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—"When speaking of military-political cooperation and the Russian joining of NATO's Partnership for Peace program, we cannot abstract ourselves from economic factors and the Russian striving to join the 'Great Seven'," Presidential Press Secretary Vyacheslav Kostikov told a briefing here today.

"You know that Russia wants to join G7. Why shouldn't these two problems be linked? If we are invited to cooperate in political and military spheres, why shouldn't this be expanded to economic cooperation?," he said. Kostikov said it is a prerogative of the Foreign Ministry to decide who will sign the document on Russian joining of the Partnership for Peace program—whether it will be Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev or it will be signed at a "lower level".

"Bearing in mind unclear content and consequences of the 'Partnership' program, the State Duma has suggested to sign the framework agreement at a lower level to have more space for manoeuvre," said Kostikov. He said his task is to spare the president and the State Duma of confrontation related to the discussion or ratification of the Partnership for Peace program. In this connection, Kostikov said that press reports on the program concept are useful as they help to make the topic more open.

Shumeyko Addresses Council of Europe on Air Strikes

LD1104214294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1913 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Krasnoshchekov]

[Text] Strasbourg April 11 TASS—NATO air strikes on Bosnian Serb positions in Bosnia-Herzegovina cannot be justified at this point, Russian Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko said. Shumeyko is in Strasbourg as head of the Russian delegation attending a session of the Council of Europe Assembly. Shumeyko stressed that the U.N. decision allowing NATO to decide on the use of force in the war zone remains in effect. But the decision was adopted several months ago and the situation has changed considerably since then, he said.

The latest actions cannot be justified by the need to protect civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina, he continued. Additionally, Russia's involvement in Bosnian settlement has brought certain results and opened up ways for continuing the search for a compromise satisfying all sides. He believes the United States should not have openly shown support for one side, while "punishing" another.

He stressed that from the military point of view the effectiveness of air strikes is also in question. "As a result of air strikes only one tank was destroyed, but civilians died. No tank can be worth a human life," he said.

Shumeyko noted that the NATO actions cannot facilitate the peace process. Time will show if they have not caused further escalation of the conflict in the region, he concluded.

Strasbourg Delegation Criticizes Zhirinovskiy

LD1204101394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0933 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Krasnoshchekov]

[Text] Strasbourg April 12 TASS—"The Zhirinovskiy party is a party of one individual, and no one empowered him to speak for millions of Russian people," Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko, who is leading the Russian delegation to the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, said commenting on the address of the leader of the Liberal-Democratic Party of Russia, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy to the parliamentary assembly session.

Shumeyko told journalists that Zhirinovskiy "is adroitly using the national idea" to reach his own political ends. He said that after the disintegration of the Soviet Union many Russian people found themselves beyond Russia's boundaries and are extremely sensitive to the situation.

In his address, Zhirinovskiy declared that "Russia has its own idea of democracy and the majority of Russians are against the country's participation in the Council of Europe and NATO". He stressed that Russia needs no "teachers of democracy" and added that "we have our own standards and we will not permit the West to experiment with Russia".

Zhirinovskiy shocked the audience by saying, "NATO flyers are now bombing Bosnia, but it is not ruled out that a time may come when other pilots will bomb other targets".

Before the beginning of the plenary session, Zhirinovskiy was so active in attracting the attention of reporters and cameramen to his own person that the chairman had to ask him to leave the room. He added that "the Council of Europe is not Hollywood, thank God".

Zhirinovskiy's speech was repeatedly interrupted by outbursts of indignation, and when he finished the chairman of the State Duma's international affairs committee Vladimir Lukin said the other members of the Russian delegation do not share Zhirinovskiy's views.

Zhirinovskiy: Bomb NATO Bases

LD1104170694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1526 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Strasbourg April 11 TASS—Russian nationalist leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy said on Monday that NATO military bases in Italy should be bombed in response to air strikes against Bosnian Serbs in Gorazde.

Zhirinovsky arrived in France with a Russian parliamentary delegation to attend the spring session of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe.

The leader of the largest one-party faction in the Russian lower house said NATO's air-strike had been aimed "against Russia, against Slavs." "If I were the president, we would bomb those bases in Italy... They bomb one town, we bomb another town," he told reporters.

Zhirinovskiy said that he favoured the peaceful settlement of the Yugoslav crisis, adding that it was NATO who initiated the aggression. NATO's action "is against Russia. For the most part, it serves the interests of Germany in the Balkans. It is against Christians, against the Slav people," the leader of the Russian Liberal Democratic Party stressed.

Zhirinovskiy Threatens Measures

NC1104132694 Nicosia CYPRUS NEWS AGENCY in English 1015 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by Maria Myles]

[Text] Strasbourg Apr 11 (CNA)—Nationalist Russian leader Vladimir Zhirinovskiy expressed unreserved support for the independence of Cyprus and the withdrawal of Turkish troops form the island.

In a statement to CNA, Zhirinovskiy, who arrived here Sunday amid controversy over his anti-French statements, said the 20-year Turkish occupation "is a violation of international law".

"The Turkish-occupied part of Cyprus has never been Turkish and Turkey, although a member of the council of Europe, is an aggressive country", he told CNA.

The Russian politician, who stressed to CNA that he speaks for the majority of the people of Russia, said "your island must be independent, either an independent state of Cyprus or part of Greece but not a part of Turkey".

Turkey invaded Cyprus in 1974 and despite numerous U.N. resolutions calling for respect for the island's independence, and for the withdrawal of all foreign forces, it continues to have 35,000 troops occupying the island's northern third.

Referring to Sunday's bombing by NATO forces of Serbian positions, Zhirinovskiy said he opposed war and violence and called on the Council of Europe to take a stand on the matter and indicate its support for aggression or non-aggression. "I will not only protest but I will warn the Council that one day we are going to take responsive measures against those countries which bombed on Sunday", he told CNA.

Replying to another question, the Russian politician said he opposed the dispatch of Turkish troops to former Yugoslavia as peacekeepers because, as he explained, "the population there opposes the presence of Turkish troops". Zhirinovskiy dismissed suggestions that the dispatch of Turkish troops was decided to balance the presence of Russian peace-keepers.

Zhirinovskiy, leader of Russia's liberal democratic party, made the statements to CNA on arrival at the Palais de l'Europe, where later this afternoon the parliamentary assembly starts.

France Grants Zhirinovskiy Visa

LD0904181394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1650 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[Text] Paris, 9 Apr—The French Foreign Ministry has today granted a "limited entry visa" to Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, leader of the Liberal Democratic Party of Russia [LDPR], who intends to take part in the session of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which opens next week in Strasbourg, Catherine Colonna, deputy to the official spokesperson of the French Foreign Ministry, told ITAR-TASS.

The limitations pertain to both the validity of the visa in terms of duration—it has been granted for the five days of the session—and in terms of place of stay—Zhirinovskiy has no right to leave Strasbourg. Thus, this is only a permission to be on French territory, rather than to visit France, Catherine Colonna pointed out.

According to a spokesperson from the diplomatic department, Vladimir Zhirinovskiy will arrive in Strasbourg as part of a Russian parliamentary delegation at the invitation of the Council of Europe. In accordance with the agreement between France and the EEC, Paris does not have the right to refuse anyone invited to the Council of Europe an entrance visa, C. Colonna explained.

The deputy of the official spokesperson of the French Foreign Ministry said that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy had been notified of all restrictions connected to his stay in Strasbourg. The LDPR leader was informed that all general requirements made of foreign citizens visiting French territory apply to him. Furthermore, V. Zhirinovskiy was reminded that all his activities during his stay in France had to be in character with the mission with which he was arriving in Strasbourg, that is, they have to relate exclusively to the PACE session.

"We do not intend to give Mr. Zhirinovskiy an entrance visa for visiting France as the republic's Foreign Minister Alain Juppe has already frequently pointed out," C. Colonna stressed.

LDPR Deputy Chairman To Depart for DPRK; To Meet Kim

LD1104214394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1703 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Deputy chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party [LDPR] Aleksandr Vengerovskiy flies out to Pyongyang late on Monday for a private meeting with North Korean leader Kim Il-song and to take part in celebrations of his birthday. Vengerovskiy is to hold a news conference at Sheremetyevo airport at 20:00 on Monday [0000 GMT on 12 April].

General Rejects Opposition to Army Exercises With U.S.

LD1104170294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1119 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Goncharov]

[Text] Orenburg April 11 TASS—"No shots will be fired during the Russo-U.S. military exercises on the Totsk military test-range," said Major-General Anatoliy Sidyakin, commander of the 27th Division of the Russian Army, at a news conference in Totsk. Sidyakin said it was symbolic that the Totsk military test-range, which saw the first cloud of a "mushroom" of a nuclear explosion going up on September 14, 1954 as a sign of the times of the Cold War, has been turning into an arena of close peaceful cooperation between Russian and American troops.

Nevertheless, the general expressed concern over the fact that joint military Russo-U.S. exercises scheduled in July have encountered strong resistance from the mass media in the Orenburg and the Volga region. The general pointed out that one might get the impression that the very possibility of the presence of American servicemen there arouses the indignation of some representatives of parties and movements.

"The scope of the upcoming exercises stand no comparison with exercises regularly held on our test-range," the general said. "Shots are permanently fired and explosions are made in the neighborhood of Totsk, showing that full-scale military exercises are underway there. The upcoming exercises are not so big in comparison because the main goal of these exercises is to teach organisation and planning the activities of peace-keeping forces," the general said.

He pointed out that the main purpose of the exercises is to work out with the U.S. side a common approach to conducting peace-keeping operations. "These operations are of a non-combat character, but rather exercises in the disengagement of warring sides and the establishment of a regime of safety in the disengagement corridor," the general said, adding that the exercises would be held with the single aim of ensuring political, non-military settlement of a conflict.

The general pointed out that no shots are planned and expected on the test-range, since "this is not necessary and was not specified by a U.N. Security Council mandate." The general pointed out that taking part in the exercises will be 50 armoured carriers, adding and that no "phantom tanks" can possibly damage the Orenburg soil.

Asked about the U.N. role in organising the exercises, the general pointed out that "the exercises will be held under the U.N. auspices which might send its representatives to the exercises. In future, the exercises might be held with the participation of "blue helmets" and other states. "Thus, the exercises would be multilateral," the general said.

In conclusion, the general pointed out that the process of the U.S. and Russia getting closer together and cooperation between them have become irreversible.

Cooperation Plans With U.S. National Security Council

PM1204103594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 2

[Aleksandr Shalnev report: "'Situation Room' Will Also Be Set Up in Moscow"]

[Text] Another sphere of cooperation has emerged in Russian-U.S. relations—between the National Security Council in Washington's White House and the Russian Federation National Security Council.

The "Memorandum on Cooperation in the Sphere of National Security," the draft of which Security Council Secretary Oleg Lobov has submitted to the [U.S.] White House, and of which we have a copy, notes that the following will be considered top-priority areas: "National security in the economy, ecology, and in the sphere of preserving the health and gene pool of the nation, and the fight against crime, international terrorism, and the drugs mafia."

If Washington finds the draft acceptable, the memorandum will be signed within the next few months during a return visit to Moscow by Anthony Lake, assistant to U.S. President for national security affairs.

The memorandum, which typically contains at least two references to the fact that the implementation of the cooperation programs will depend on the availability of sufficient funding in rubles and hard currency, regrettably does not give a clear idea of how specifically these programs will supplement those already being implemented by the Foreign Ministry and the Department of State, the defense ministries, and other U.S. and Russian departments.

Oleg Lobov's delegation was impressed by the so-called White House Situation Room, where the U.S. top leadership convenes in crisis situations and where, in ordinary situations, information about events in the United States itself and abroad is amassed and systematized. It emerged from a conversation with the Russian National Security Council secretary that there are already plans to set up a similar situation room in Moscow in one of the former Central Committee buildings on Staraya Ploshchad.

"How much will the project cost?"

"There are no figures as yet regarding cost," Oleg Lobov replied, "but the expenditure will undoubtedly pay off."

The expenditure will presumably be considerable, given that the room will be equipped with the same computers and other modern equipment as that in Washington—if not better.

Gromov, Dubinin to Ukraine To 'Put an End' to Incident

LD1104175494 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1700 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] As Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the parliamentary committee for CIS affairs, said at a press conference, Admiral Feliks Gromov, commander of the Russian Fleet, and Yuriy Dubinin, head of the Russian delegation at the Russian-Ukrainian talks, will leave for Ukraine on a special flight. Zatulin believes that this visit will put an end to the incident and that all detained servicemen will be released.

Navy Command Wants Ukraine Payment

LD0804144394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1341 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Roman Zadunaiskiy]

[Text] Moscow April 8 TASS—The command of the Black Sea Navy has asked the Ukrainian Defence Ministry to pay before April 10 all the debts of the Ukrainian military units which consume electric power through the Black Sea Navy, as well as the debts of Ukrainian Defence Ministry customers to the building department of the Black Sea Navy.

The telegram, addressed to Ukrainian Defence Minister General Vitaliy Radetskiy, says that on March 28 the debts of Ukrainian units to the Black Sea Navy amounted to 4 billion karbovanets for the consumed electricity, and 16,709 billion karbovanets for the completed construction jobs.

The cable says that if the debt was not paid before April 10, "the Black Sea Navy Command will be compelled to consider the question of stopping all building and assembly works, carried out by the Black Sea Navy construction department for the Ukrainian Defence Ministry, and of switching over all the Ukrainian units, consuming electric power through the Black Sea Navy, to their own power sources".

"The Black Sea Navy Command holds," the cable says, "that the Ukrainian Defence Ministry has breached the summit agreements on the joint financing of the Black Sea Navy and is trying to solve its own problems at the expense of the Russian Navy".

Duma Speaker Demands Ships' Release

LD1104190694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Speaker of the State Duma (the lower house of parliament) Ivan Rybkin in a letter to the Ukrainian leadership has protested at Kiev's seizure of the Black Sea Fleet's group of warships deployed at Odessa and the detention of the group commander, officers and men.

The letter requests the immediate release of the detainees in the name of long-running friendly relations between Russia and Ukraine.

Head of the parliamentary committee for CIS affairs Konstantin Zatulin told reporters in Moscow that soon after receiving an INTERFAX report about the incident on Monday, the Duma Council had held consultations with Chief Commander of the Russian Navy Feliks Gromov and Russian chief negotiator in talks with Kiev Yuriy Dubinin. He said the two officials would fly to Kiev late on Monday and that the "incident will be resolved and servicemen released".

Zatulin expressed the hope that the incident was caused by misunderstanding rather than being a deliberate act intended to strain bilateral relations. If the detainees are not set free, he said, the Duma will have to resume discussion of the issue on Wednesday and adopt a special resolution. Zatulin did not rule out a souring of relations between the two countries and their parliaments.

At the same time, the Russian official said the incident might have been planned as a way of causing friction between Moscow and Kiev. Zatulin believes that tension is being fuelled in Ukraine in a bid to cancel presidential elections in June and impose presidential rule in the country.

Fleet Command Protests

LD1104160694 Moscow POSTFACTUM in English 1134 GMT 11 Apr 94

["The Command of the Black Sea Fleet has issued a protest to Ukraine's Military Department (Ministry of Defense) in connection with the Seizure of a Fleet Division in Odessa"—POSTFACTUM headline]

[Text] The press centre of the Black Sea Fleet has today circulated a statement concerning the events in Odessa. The statement says:

"Ukrainian servicemen have committed yet another illegal act in relation to the Black Sea Fleet. From 2100 to 2300 on 10th April, the anniversary of the city's liberation from the German fascist aggressors, around 120 members of Ukraine's armed forces, acting in the best traditions of the SS divisions, attacked a division of mothball ships of the Black Sea Fleet in Odessa.

"The Ukrainian raiders handcuffed the division's commander, Captain 1st Rank Oleg Feoktistov, the division's chief of staff, Captain 2nd Rank Aleksandr Zelenko, and the commander of the base support unit, Captain 2nd Rank Dmitriiy Starikov. The other officers and warrant officers, with their families, are on the unit's territory, under the guard of Ukrainian special-purpose troops. Windows were broken in offices, and people were wounded, some of them children. The unit's civilian staff were beaten up and removed to the village of Chabanka, near Odessa.

It is also important to observe that the Commander of the Ukrainian Navy, Vice Admiral Vladimir Beskorovaynyy was then in the port of Odessa, on board the "Slavutich" ship belonging to the Ukrainian Navy administration.

The Black Sea Fleet command is voicing its resolute protest to the Ukrainian military department in connection with the capture of the fleet division, and regards actions such as this to be a bandit attack which has gone beyond the control of military formations.

Besides, two vehicles with commandos are reported to have been sent to Odessa to the location of hydrographic units of the Black Sea Fleet. These units are also being blockaded by up to 40 commandos".

Embassy in Rwanda Evacuated to Burundi

LD1204105894 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0900 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian Foreign Ministry's Africa Department has informed us that the Russian Embassy in Rwanda was totally evacuated today due to the unpredictable situation in the capital of that African country. Embassy staff, Aeroflot representatives, and their families were taken to the capital of Burundi. Only women who are Russian citizens married to Rwandans remain in Rwanda. Interethnic clashes which started six days ago in Rwanda have left at least 10,000 people dead.

Moscow Condemns 'Slaughter'

LD1204121494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0945 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Kirill Strzhizhovskiy]

[Excerpts] Moscow, 12 Apr—Russia firmly condemns the pointless bloody slaughter carried out in Kigali and the killing of the prime minister and other state figures, a representative of the Africa Department of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in an interview for the ITAR-TASS correspondent. [passage omitted]

At present the situation in Rwanda is continuing to deteriorate. The aborted cease-fire talks produced no result. The events in Rwanda have dealt a serious political blow to the Arusha peace process and the United Nations' peacekeeping operation has been put in jeopardy.

Russia calls on the opposing sides to halt hostilities immediately and to resume a constructive dialogue with the participation of all the country's political forces in order to settle the domestic political conflict in Rwanda as soon as possible on the basis of the Arusha accords and the relevant UN Security Council decisions, said the representative of the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Military Chief Holds Talks in Beijing

LD1204114494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0938 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Arslanov]

[Text] Beijing April 12 TASS—Colonel General Mikhail Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff of Russia's armed forces, who is currently here on a four-day visit, has held talks with his Chinese counterpart, Colonel-General Zhang Wannian.

The two military leaders discussed the course of negotiations on a reduction in armed forces in the area of the Russian-Chinese border, confidence-building measures in the military field and matters connected with exchanges of delegations between the two countries' defence ministries. Kolesnikov set out the main provisions of Russia's military doctrine.

On Tuesday Kolesnikov had a meeting with Liu Huaqing, member of the standing committee of the Political Bureau of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee and deputy chairman of China's Central Military Council.

The two sides expressed satisfaction with the development of contacts between the armed forces of the two states, which promotes stronger friendship, goodneighbourliness and trust between Russia and China, and peace in the Asia-Pacific region and throughout the world.

Kolesnikov visited the guards division of Beijing garrison where he familiarised himself with the combat training of Chinese servicemen. On Tuesday afternoon the Russian general left by air for Shanghai for a meeting with the command of Shanghai garrison and a tour of the one [as received] of defence-industry plant being converted to civilian production. Kolesnikov will also visit the Pudong economic development area.

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Beijing Talks

LD1204122294 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0507 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Grigoriy Arslanov]

[Text] Beijing, 12 Apr—Russo-Chinese consultations on bilateral and international issues were held in Beijing on 10-12 April. The Russian delegation was headed by Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov and the Chinese delegation by PRC Deputy Foreign Minister Dai Binggau. Igor Rogachev, Russian Federation ambassador to the PRC, attended the consultations. The head of the Russian delegation was received by Qian Qichen, vice premier of the State Council and PRC foreign minister.

The sides held an in-depth exchange of views on a wide range of issues in bilateral and international cooperation. Practical preparations for the visit to the PRC by Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, were started. Prospects for the further expansion of high-level exchanges and contacts between Russia and China were discussed. Both sides expressed a wish to develop good-neighborly, friendly relations between the Russian Federation and the PRC, which are an important factor for stability in the Asian-Pacific region and the world as a whole.

There was a constructive discussion of international issues of interest to both sides, with the accent placed on the situation in the Asian-Pacific region and the Korean peninsula in particular. The sides agreed to continue close consultations on these and other bilateral and international questions.

In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Panov said that relations with China were unquestionably one of the priority areas in Russian foreign policy. It is very gratifying, he said, that an intense, high-level summit dialogue will take place this year. It is also pleasing that our new parliament has begun to pay a great deal of attention to China. State Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin plans to visit the PRC. Parliament will hold hearings at the end of April on Russo-Chinese relations.

So active are the high-level contacts that, for Russian diplomacy, this year will be the year of Russo-Chinese relations, as it were. Panov said that this scale of bilateral contacts is not planned with any other country. This truly is very important for us, since China is not only a neighbor, but also Russia's partner in economic matters and in the international arena. For this reason, it is extremely important for us to synchronize watches and positions on the main aspects of bilateral and international relations. He noted that this will enable us to plan our further moves more confidently.

During the second meeting with Minister Qian Qichen and at the consultations, Panov said, we had a detailed discussion about North Korea's nuclear program. The Russian Federation and the PRC agree that this problem must be solved, first and foremost, through talks, without pressure, without exacerbating the situation. Both sides advocate that the Korean peninsula should be nuclear-free and that the military confrontation should be reduced. Our aims in this respect are identical. At the present stage, the Chinese side believes that priority should be given to talks among four partners: the United States, the DPRK, the Republic of Korea, and the IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency]. However, the leadership of the Chinese Foreign Ministry does not rule out the possibility that an international conference, as proposed by Russia, could play a role at some stage in the future.

We also believe in trying out various different channels for resolving this problem, the Russian diplomat stressed. If the problem cannot be resolved bilaterally, we believe that the international channel could be used, Panov said.

Yeltsin, Grachev, Lebed Discuss Base in Moldova

AU1204115894 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1000 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Yesterday Radio Moldova, quoting sources in Tiraspol, informed its listeners about the presence in Moscow of General Aleksandr Lebed, the commander of the 14th Army of the Russian Federation. General Lebed had held meetings with President Boris Yeltsin and Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev. The same sources said that during the meeting, they approached issues related to the future situation of the 14th Army, and especially, the partial transportation to Russia of its military patrimony and the turning of the 14th Army into a Russian military base on the territory of the Republic of Moldova, BASAPRESS news agency informs.

According to the same news agency, the Tiraspol command of the 14th Army was attributed the status of military police. At the same time the number of the personnel of the former command was increased by placing under its subordination the battalion of military police set up by former employees of the Tiraspol [Dniester Republic] juridical bodies. Its military command was taken out of the jurisdiction the command of the 14th Army and transferred to that of Russia's Interior Ministry.

Ministry Cites CFE Treaty on Kaliningrad Troops

PM0804170194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 3

[Boris Vinogradov report: "Pavel Grachev Creating Special Region in Kaliningrad. Lech Walesa Alarmed"]

[Text] Polish President Lech Walesa has called the number of Russian troops in Kaliningrad Oblast an "alarming phenomenon." He does not understand why it is necessary to maintain such a powerful grouping in peacetime, and has called on Western politicians not to close their eyes to this "excessive militarization."

While in Riga recently, Walesa expressed concern at the fact that there are around 100,000 Russian troops in the Kaliningrad area. His position is shared by Lithuania, which has a common border with the oblast. Vilnius began to be particularly insistent in demanding explanations after Pavel Grachev, who visited Baltiysk in mid-March, announced that Russia intends to set up a "special defense region" in Kaliningrad Oblast.

The new term used by the minister came as a surprise both to military strategists and to diplomats. At any rate, the Russian Foreign Ministry could tell us nothing instructive on this score. With a view to its geopolitical uniqueness we can guess what makes the region "special." It is harder to understand whom it is necessary to provide a defense against. Against a potential aggressor on sea or land, according to Grachev.

Vilnius and Warsaw are on their guard. Germany and the other NATO countries are being tactful. The British General Hardy Johnson, commander in chief NATO Forces, Northern Europe, who visited the Baltiysk naval base the other day, said that he respects Russia's right to have near Kaliningrad the army it considers necessary. As long as its size does not go beyond the framework of the Europe-wide CFE treaty.

Under the treaty, the Defense Ministry explained, Russia could keep 3,800 tanks and one-third of all its Armed Forces in the enclave. Thus, as far as "militarization" is concerned, this quota has by no means been used up. But this does not mean that the grouping will be increased.

Meanwhile, Lithuania continues to propose that NATO and the CSCE elaborate a special regime for Kaliningrad which, it claims, will lose its status of "Russian enclave" by the year 2000 in accordance with the Potsdam agreements. Admittedly, the idea met with no support from the Western states, which are proclaiming the principle of the inviolability of postwar borders.

Vilnius itself is taking steps toward "demilitarization," placing obstacles in the way of military trains crossing Lithuanian territory, making detachments [komandy] disembark, and not allowing the transit of combat hardware into Kaliningrad.

Political Issues

Yavlinskiy Bloc To Oppose Draft Budget for 1994

LD1004164594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The Russian parliament's Yavlinskiy-Boldyrev-Lukin group said it would vote against the draft budget for 1994, "since it fails to meet our priorities in economic and social policy."

Explaining the reasons for the decision in a statement issued on Sunday, the group says the budget would increase taxes, contains no provision for measures to stop the decline of production, for structural reforms, for support for private business enterprise, for the reorganization of insolvent enterprises, for any changes in industrial policy, for demonopolization, for a better social policy, for any measures to improve the situation in the armed forces, or for the insufficient financing of public education and preschool health care, but would increase administrative expenditure.

The economic policy guidelines that the draft budget lays provide no basis for further reforms or for solving Russia's acute problems, the group says. It says it is going to propose that the government amend the budget within the next month and put it before parliament every quarter to make it possible to adjust it to new developments.

Filatov Confirms Blacklist of 151 Former Deputies

LD1204094094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0808 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 12 Apr—In an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent, Sergey Filatov, head of the Russian president's administration, has confirmed the existence of a blacklist of former Russian Federation people's deputies comprising 151 names. The list was drawn up by the presidential administration's commission led by former People's Deputy Aleksey Surkov. According to Filatov, the listed deputies are not covered by some of the social guarantees granted in the presidential decree of 23 September 1993.

The list includes those former deputies who had not stopped attending the sessions of the former Supreme Soviet before 3 October and participated in mass disturbances on 3-4 October or who incited those disturbances.

The head of the presidential administration recalled that the presidential decree of 6 October 1993 instructed him personally to "establish which persons are not to be covered by the present decree..., to make decisions single-handedly in the event of any disputes."

Filatov said that the persons on the list would not receive the lump-sum allowance amounting to a yearly salary, calculated on the basis of the monthly salary at the moment when the deputies' powers were terminated. In his words, it is a question of 3 to 4 million rubles to be allocated to each deputy out of the state budget, out of the people's money. As for transferring accommodations in Moscow to the ownership of former deputies, this issue will be dealt with on an individual basis, the head of the presidential administration said.

He also stressed that "Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov is not a man to give away municipal apartments for free", each worth between 60,000 and 70,000 dollars at market rates. "Otherwise, it will be difficult to explain to Muscovites why we are allowing those who incited a civil war to retain their accommodations," Filatov said.

Court Ruling on Coup 'Scenario No. 1' Publication

PM1204125394 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 12 Apr 94 First Edition p 2

["Statement No. 2 of the Appeal Court for Information Disputes under the Russian Federation President Concerning the Publication of So-Called 'Scenario No. 1' in OBSHCHAYA GAZETA"—ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA headline]

[Text] On 19 March, OBSHCHAYA GAZETA published the so-called "Scenario No. 1" concerning an alleged coup d'etat in preparation. The document caused public excitement and prompted a torrent of articles in the newspapers, broadcast reports, and also statements by officials. The Russian Federation Committee for the Press officially warned OBSHCHAYA GAZETA (founder and chief editor Ye.V. Yakovlev) that "its actions are perceived as a deliberate step aimed at destabilizing society and undermining constitutional authority."

The Appeal Court has started receiving requests from citizens and the media asking it to speak out on the publication of so-called "Scenario No. 1" in OBSHCHAYA GAZETA and assess whether it was, on the one hand, freedom of expression or, on the other hand, an abuse of mass media freedom.

The Appeal Court examined the case of the publication of "Scenario No. 1" by OBSHCHAYA GAZETA and the subsequent items in various publications and statements by officials and saw fit to make the following statement:

OBSHCHAYA GAZETA had rather substantial grounds for publishing "Scenario No. 1" of an alleged coup d'etat in preparation. The promulgation of this material was preceded by a statement by a number of well-known politicians concerning the threat of a "palace coup," to the effect that "signs of a coup are already in evidence" and that "analytical memoranda are circulating and various coup scenarios are being discussed." All this was causing agitation in society and giving rise to rumors and conjecture. It was in these conditions of social tension that the OBSHCHAYA GAZETA editorial board decided to publish "Scenario No. 1." The subsequent reaction shows that it did not destabilize society, but defused the political situation. Even supposing that actions were actually being prepared, they were prevented to some extent by the publication of the "Scenario." The world has known of cases where a leak of information has prevented state upheavals, while dismissal of information has resulted in tragedy.

The Appeal Court believes that by publishing "Scenario No. 1" OBSHCHAYA GAZETA did not break the Law on the Mass Media. The newspaper was right to inform citizens of actions in the offing or of insinuations about such actions.

Nor can the publication of "Scenario No. 1" be seen as sensation-seeking, whereby information authenticity would be sacrificed. An editorial note plainly states: "Most likely what we have here is an obvious hoax, a 'letter of incitement.'" In other words, the editorial board's attitude toward publication was a balanced one. This is also indicated by the unsensational way in which the material was presented.

Criminal proceedings have been instituted over the publication and an investigation is in progress, the results of which are not yet known. So far it has not been established whether the "Scenario" is a letter of incitement or instance of political hooliganism, or if it has a real basis. Thus, the Appeal Court has refrained from drawing any hasty conclusions about the authenticity of the publication. In this connection, the Appeal Court also regards as premature certain assessments of the actions of the OBSHCHAYA GAZETA editorial board, and in particular the taking of administrative action against it.

[signed] Appeal Court Chairman A. Vengerov
[dated] Moscow, 4 April.

Zorkin Lists Requirements for 'National Accord'

PM1104160094 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Valeriy Zorkin: "Concerning the Accord Agreement. Valeriy Zorkin: 'The Most Important Question Is the Effectiveness of the Authorities Themselves'"]

[Excerpts] The publication in recent days of various texts designed to raise to a formal level the idea of national accord which is now prevalent in society is in danger of turning into a regular race around Sadovoye Koltso for the National Reconciliation Prize. This idea, which has enormous constructive potential, is for some reason being deliberately steered away from broad public discussion, and because of the vagueness, formalism, and incomprehensibility—to ordinary people—of the proposed "memorandums," it is becoming the subject of haggling among just a small group of politicians. [passage omitted]

If this or that draft agreement is not to become just another ideological one-day wonder, the following must be borne in mind. A national accord is a kind of social contract, a public agreement on certain principles or measures capable of pulling the country back from the brink of the abyss. It is not a deal made by the political elite behind the people's back, but a compromise among the main political forces expressing the people's own vital interests. And it should not be an agreement between robber and robbed, but a broad public understanding that without the immediate implementation of concrete priority measures the country cannot be prevented from drifting into national disaster. And the role of the authorities in this compromise is a distinct and, I would say, subordinate role.

The authorities do not impose their own terms from above, by means of a decree, on the basis of their own selfish, narrow party interests; they face the people with an admission of their mistake in leading society into an impasse, at the same time proposing a carefully thought-out change of political course in order to implement priority anticrisis actions. If the authorities are not prerpared to take this fundamentally important step, any agreement naturally becomes, for them, a "mandate" to further plunder and ruin the country.

To avoid the abyss, harsh measures are needed, but measures based on strict compliance with the law and on society's consent. This latter is no less important in that without that consent any strong-arm solutions, including a state of emergency, will be futile and ineffective in a huge country like Russia.

The most important question now is the effectiveness of the authorities themselves; without this, it is impossible to restore order in the country. The first steps toward an agreement on national reconciliation and society's consent for these authorities specifically to implement anticrisis measures should be rigorous discipline in the state apparatus and a curb on corruption and arbitrary bureaucratic rule.

The second key question on which an accord has already developed in society is that of halting the wave of crime involving "shoot-outs" among mafiosi groups in public places, causing mass casualties among innocent people, even children. Society itself is prepared for a redistribution of the meager resources available in the country in order to create a protective environment and curb the rampant crime which is encouraged by the chaos that prevails in the power structures. But in that case, one wonders, what use are ineffective authorities to a society that is forced to act on its own account?

The third key question should be that of an accord on urgent economic measures. It is necessary to prevent the economic bankruptcy of the state, with all the ensuing economic and social problems (such as the nonpayments crisis, the shutdown of industry, the lack of resources for agricultural operations or for wages). A fourth problem on which a national accord has already formed is that of resolute actions to restore the destroyed links between the former Union republics, as well as translating to a practical plane the work of recreating a new union statehood on a strictly voluntary basis. Especially since initiatives in this direction come not only from Moscow, but also from Alma-Ata [Almaty], Minsk, and the capitals of other former republics.

Naturally one can speak of the existence of a social consensus on questions of preventing the destruction of Russia's intellectual potential, support for enterprise geared to the national interest, etc. Concrete proposals have been in existence on all these matters for a long time. All that is needed is the desire on the part of the authorities and the existence of the will, the capacity to fulfill them.

All in all, accord is possible only on the basis of a change in the catastrophic course imposed by the radical "democrats."

Former Prosecutor Kazannik's 'Latest Revelations'

PM1204095594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 3

[Interview with former General Prosecutor Aleksey Kazannik by Stanislav Bartnikas under the "Reporting the Details" rubric; date and place not given: "It Was Recommended That I Send Khasbulatov and Rutskoy to the Firing Squad. Latest Revelations by Former General Prosecutor Aleksey Kazannik"]

[Text] [Bartnikas] Did anyone put pressure on you during the discussion of the question of the general prosecutor in the Federation Council?

[Kazannik] I think that everyone had already realized that it was impossible to put any pressure on me. To buy me off or offer me positions. But when I was general prosecutor, they did try. For instance, they said: So you have got yourself an apartment; why waste your time, let us furnish it for you for free. I refused. But in the present case no one pressurized me. On the other hand, I know that the president's administration worked at the highest level with many deputies and tried to persuade them to vote only for the dismissal of Kazannik. But I wish it to be noted that deputies are more law-abiding than the president and his team. And in the vote two motives prevailed—the purely legal, and the moral.

[Bartnikas] Yes, but after all, the question of the general prosecutor was by no means closed by your dismissal....

[Kazannik] Agreed, a far from straightforward situation will arise. The point is that there is no provision for an acting general prosecutor either in the Constitution or in the Law on the General Prosecutor. Only the general prosecutor's deputies can perform his duties in his absence, and only in accordance with the general prosecutor's own directives. An outsider simply cannot do this. But this is evidently no obstacle for the president, although difficult legal problems arise here. For instance, supposing it is necessary to extend a period of detention in custody to 18 months—that is the exclusive prerogative of the general prosecutor. Suppose that Ilyushenko extends this term; then any lawyer will state that it is illegal. And the accused will be immediately released from the detention center.

[Bartnikas] Do you think that the disputes over the general prosecutor are linked primarily with a desire on the part of the president's team to have a puppet Prosecutor's Office, or is it simply a matter of personal dislike?

[Kazannik] I think that they have one wish—to be able to telephone the Prosecutor's Office and say: Don't do this or that. And I am sure that, had Ilyushenko been general prosecutor during the amnesty period, he would have released no one. After all, he obeys not only Yeltsin's orders, but even Kozhakov's (chief of the Russian Federation president's security service—editor's note). And after all, the president's entourage put very strong pressure on us. For example, immediately following the October events, the Prosecutor's Office received from the president's administration instructions on how the investigation should be conducted. These instructions ran more or less as follows. No political trials should be conducted. No investigation team should be set up, but rather just five or six investigators should be assigned. The October events should be investigated within three to four days, everyone should be charged under Articles 102 and 17—that is to say for complicity to murder—and the cases should be handed over to the military collegium for criminal affairs. The trial should last two to three days, and everyone should be sentenced to the death penalty. These documents were unsigned. But imagine what another prosecutor would have done in my position who might have said: It must be done; how simple everything is. I did not allow this.

[Bartnikas] Are you not sorry to leave your post?

[Kazannik] Yes, I leave with regret. The post is not the point, nor are the privileges. I thought that I would be able to deal a serious blow to crime, including organized crime. But the latter cannot exist without corruption of the state apparatus. After all, how come that people in the MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] say: We know the location of around 15,000 bands, but we do not possess more detailed information. I am curious to know how it can be that people know the ringleaders by sight, they know their aliases and so forth, but they are still at large. And therefore I planned to check how the law on operational investigations activity is observed in all regions. I think that we would have determined why the MVD does not have the relevant information or does not want to have it. In addition, I wanted to reform the General Prosecutor's Office—I wanted to reduce the central apparatus by one-half; after all, we have many departments where people are worn out through having nothing to do. However, I think that it would not have been possible to have remained an honest prosecutor.

[Bartnikas] And one last question—have you handed in your credentials?

[Kazannik] Not yet. Incidentally, Acting General Prosecutor Ilyushenko fired me as long ago as 15 March—either he has a poor grasp of legislation, or he was fulfilling an order from the Kremlin. In the near future I will take all my documents from the Prosecutor's Office, but I will be obliged to hand over the Russian general prosecutor's credentials.

Urban Adults Polled on Perceptions of Government

MK0904094094 Moscow KURANTY in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 2

[Oleg Savelyev report under the "Social Barometer" rubric: "Russians Assess Authorities and Government"; all figures as published]

[Text] A representative poll was conducted among 1,600 urban adults of the Russian Federation in late March by the All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion. The answers to some of the questions in the poll on what people think of the authorities is in percentage points.

What is your assessment of the people now in power?

These are people concerned only with their own material and career well-being—50
These are honest but incompetent people who do not know how to bring the country out of the economic crisis—19
These are honest but weak people who do not know how to use their powers and ensure order and a consistent political course—16
This is a fine team of politicians leading the country along the right road—3

What are your main complaints about the performance of today's government?

It is unable to deal with growing prices and people's falling incomes—44
There is no considered program for getting out of the crisis—38
It is not concerned with social protection for the population—35
It is unable to ensure security of citizens, does not fight crime—30
It may lead to massive unemployment—25
It is leading to undermining the economy, ruination of enterprises, undermining the great-power prestige—25
It primarily benefits the shadow, mafia-like capital—20
It is corrupt, primarily pursues its own interests—15
Primarily benefits foreign capital—9
No complaints about the performance of the government—2
Hard to say—7

Yeltsin To Publish Book

LD1004163294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1515 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] Russian President Boris Yeltsin's book, entitled "Notes of a President" is being prepared for publication. It will come out in Russia and have more than 400 pages with the text and 90 pages with illustrations. The book consists of 10 chapters:
"A Normal Country. Russia in May to December 1990."
"Independence. January 1991."
"The Collapse of the Empire. September to December 1991."
"After the Putsch."
"Russia and the World. January to August 1992."
"The Shock Therapy. September 1992 to March 1993."
"Run of Bad Luck. April to July 1993."
"The Dramatic Summer. August and September 1993."
"The Dramatic Autumn."
"Premature Results."

The final chapters, which contain Yeltsin's story about how the plan for the neutralization of the White House was conceived and developed, are particularly interesting today. The author writes that Russian fascists idolizing Hitler and his idea, fought their first battle near the walls of the White House.

"The White House sent out signals which were pushing people to the most horrible things: arsons, murder and plunder. Here in the White House, a Russian rebellion - senseless and merciless - was provoked, prepared and meticulously planned under the cover of the lofty title 'political opposition'."

"No one was forcing officer Rutskoy, or Professor Khasbulatov, who consider themselves politicians with high moral principles, to use the neo-fascists' services," writes Yeltsin.

The author also gives a detailed account of the conference in Staroye Ogaryovo (a village in a Moscow suburb) on September 12, 1993, during which Yeltsin informed his power ministers Grachev, Kozyrev, Golushko and Yerin of the draft decree on the dismissal of the congress and parliament, and on early parliamentary elections. The draft decree was approved, while Kozyrev remarked that such a decree should have appeared a long time ago. The foreign minister was sharply aware of the dangers posed by the parliament, of Russia's falling prestige and of growing mistrust in the world, writes Yeltsin. He also says that Viktor Chernomyrdin resolutely put his signature under the decree, already signed by the four ministers. The book also gives details of the conference on the eve of October 4, when Yeltsin instructed Pavel Grachev to run the military operation against the rebels.

Yeltsin Advisor Heinrich Views Russian Politics

For an interview with Austrian political scientist Hans-Georg Heinrich, who has worked for three years in the

Moscow White House, see the 12 April issue of the Austria section of the WEST EUROPE Daily Report.

Military & Nuclear Issues

Russia Not Testing, Producing Nuclear Weapons

LD1104171994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1628 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Mirny (Murmansk region) April 11 TASS—"Russia is neither producing nor testing nuclear weapons", ITAR-TASS was told by Lieutenant-General Yuriy Zhuravlev, head of the state testing area under Russia's Strategic Missile Command.

On Monday, a large group of journalists from various publications, information agencies, and radio and tv stations arrived at the top secret garrison in Mirny. They will be able to acquaint themselves with some of Russia's latest military technology, in particular, with the "Topol" experimental missile system which is expected to become part of the armed forces in a couple of years.

The journalists' arrival corresponded with celebrations of Cosmonaut's Day. In Mirny, this holiday is widely celebrated, since much has been done here for progress in space.

"We have no secrets to hide from Russians and the world community, but our openness does not hinder our responsibility for the security of Russia", Yuriy Zhuravlev declared.

Radiation Official on Conditions at Nuclear Stations

LD0804222594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1335 GMT 8 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Text] Moscow, 8 Apr—Accidents are possible at any nuclear power station. Not for technical reasons, either, although the state of many stations does indeed give rise to anxiety among specialists, the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned today from Valeriy Sorokin, head of the Main Administration for Radiation Catastrophes (formerly Roskomchernobyl) of the Russian Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies, and Natural Disasters.

There are a number of reasons for potential accidents, the specialist believes. Equipment works as well as the people who operate it. At present the professional level of nuclear power station staff has fallen sharply. Previously, many highly-qualified nuclear workers wanted to work at stations because of the financial and social privileges—these have not been in evidence for the last three or four years. Top class nuclear power workers are leaving for commercial organizations. It is frightening when nuclear power station workers go on strike because for several months they have not been paid their wages, averaging about 100,000 rubles. Many left under pressure of public opinion when Chernobyl started to be linked with nuclear power workers. Some believed nuclear stations should be eliminated.

Sorokin is of the view that there is a lack of due supervision at stations. Gosatomnadzor [State Committee for Supervision of Nuclear and Radiation Safety]—which grew from the former Ministry of Medium Machine-Building—essentially runs itself. At all nuclear power stations practically all its representatives are former staff of the stations themselves and are to a great degree dependent upon the management there.

Things are hard for Russia today. But it must choose the priority areas of life and the problems that must be solved first of all.

Official Details Effects of Chernobyl Disaster

LD0904115994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1134 GMT 9 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Text] Moscow April 9 TASS—Now that almost eight years have passed since the Chernobyl catastrophe, mortality rate has exceeded birth rate in Central European part of Russia.

Situation in the Bryansk region mirrors that in other regions, which were exposed to the Chernobyl fallout, said Petr Kuzmin, head of the radiological medicine department of the public health board under the Bryansk regional administration. Almost 500,000 inhabitants of the Bryansk region live in the territory polluted with radionuclides. Since 1990, mortality rate has exceeded birth rate by six persons per 1,000 (in some districts, by 10 persons per 1,000). General morbidity has grown markedly over the years - a fact related to undermined immune systems.

Complications registered at pregnancy and childbirth have increased threefold, and the number of congenital anomalies and malignant tumors have doubled over the past five years. The incidence of the thyroid gland cancer has increased fivefold. Before 1987, there had not been a single case of a child suffering from the disease on record in the region, whereas at present local endocrinologists and oncologists are dealing with 20 such cases. In expert opinion, the incidence of oncological and hereditary diseases will continue to grow over the next 10-15 years.

Grachev on Size, Role of Army; Fatalities

LD1104204894

[Editorial Report] Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1550 GMT on 11 April carries the "We" magazine program presented by Vladimir Pozner, in which Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev answers questions from a studio audience. Pozner begins by asking Grachev why he thinks young people are generally so unwilling to join the Army. Grachev answers that the country's political leaders have changed their attitudes to the Army and the Army has been left to fend for itself. Second, the Army has "opened up" and all the Army's troubles are known to everyone. The Russian Army is still a young one—only two years old next month. When he became defense minister, Grachev says, the first thing he felt was that the legislative base of the Army had to be changed. He points out the moral and physical attributes required to serve in the Army. Pozner then opens the discussion to the floor.

A young man asks why an Army is needed in a country where "three main chiefs gathered together and destroyed a single state at Belovezhskaya Pushcha" [reference to meeting in Brest between President Boris Yeltsin, Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich, and Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk announced the end of the USSR], and why, contrary to the law, it is trying to recruit students from the new humanitarian university? Grachev replies that the Army is an instrument of the state and its main job is to ensure the security of the state. As far as students are concerned, they are called up only from places that do not have military departments.

Pozner then asks: "Pavel Sergeyevich, does the Defense Ministry give recommendations on the call-up? In particular, did you present your point of view to anyone?"

Grachev replies: "You... [pauses] Many people are acquainted with the law on defense. The former Supreme Soviet adopted a law on defense in which it determined the strength of the Armed Forces, which, it said, should comprise one percent of the overall population. At the present moment we have about 150 million. That means we must have an Army of 1.5 million. And where do we get it from? Here's a simple example. The spring call-up is now upon us. We have 1,472,000 young people subject to military law. In order to bring the Army's strength up to about 78 percent, in such a way that the units are operationally efficient, in this call-up we need to recruit a minimum of 500,000 men, not taking other departments into account. We have come to the conclusion that this spring we can recruit not only for the Armed Forces but also for all other departments only 216,000 men. That's the second reason, and, naturally we are making recommendations."

Grachev is asked next whether a Russian citizen has the right to serve outside Russian territory. He says yes, in accordance with a Supreme Soviet decision, he has such a right if he expresses such a personal wish after six months' service, in consultation with his parents.

Grachev clarifies his remark earlier about the Russian Army being only two years old; it has hundreds of years of previous history. A woman representing a group of servicemen's mothers wonders about the cost of the best brains of our young people. This is very high, he says, and a young man's profession is strictly taken into account when he is called up.

Answering charges of discrimination against Muslims in the Army, Grachev says this is indeed a problem, and it has become especially evident over the past year. An agreement was concluded with the Orthodox Church that Muslims should be able to confer with priests of both churches prior to call-up. As far as their diet is concerned, that's another matter that is virtually impossible to solve.

Grachev assures another young man that reductions in the Army are not a whim of the defense minister or the military command. "Anyone who follows what I do closely knows that I am in favor, at least, of an Army of 2.1 million. At the moment we have 2.3 million. This is the optimal composition of an Army that can work and defend its fatherland." He goes on: "We are conducting a planned discharge of the officer corps, first and foremost those who have served 20 years or more and are entitled to a pension; second, those officers and warrant officers who have unblemished records—and there are quite a number of them; and, third, those officers and warrant officers who have simply not got used to present-day conditions, i.e. those people who still carry political views and support certain political parties and currents. We have pursued another path. The Army has been depoliticized and de-ideologized and it's job is to defend its fatherland and not to serve one particular party, of whatever hue. Unfortunately, it is proving difficult to solve this question at the moment."

Pozner recalls that Grachev said that he believes the ideal strength to be 2.1 million. "That is more than one percent of the population." "Of course", Grachev replies. Pozner goes on, "You consider that one percent is a small amount?" Grachev points out that people forget that Western countries are highly developed and their strategic position is different from that of Russia with its huge area, and, therefore, to guarantee the country's security with just one percent of the population is not enough.

A questioner from Volgograd complains about the waste of life and lack of justice in the Army. Pozner interrupts with some statistics on deaths in the Army: In 1994, about 2,500 people have died for various reasons. Grachev agrees, people are being killed. "The statistics are these—first, your figures are insufficient. If you want to be objective, in 1993 1,349 people were killed or died. Fifty percent of those died as a result of auto, air, and other disasters. Something like 25 percent took their own lives, about 20 percent lost their lives during exercises or servicing combat equipment," and another 2 percent died as a result of bullying.

Answering a question about pacifism, Grachev believes this is an "anti-state" matter. To another question he regrets that some people who have the money are able to buy themselves out.

Pozner presents video clips with the voice-over pointing out apathy and lack of discipline in the Army and delay in paying wages. The video shows men operating tanks, on patrol, on naval vessels, etc. Pozner says he is disheartened by what he hears and asks Grachev if there is a way out of these difficulties.

"The way out is there if our elected deputies and our leaders in the government correctly realize that the Army is not striving for ideals and is not asking for money just for its own needs. Let the viewers understand that the Armed Forces still pays for 60 percent of the overall number of Russia's enterprises. We are financing the staff of military factories. Therefore, our sums are realistic, and I emphasize again that the sum now being discussed and endorsed is clearly insufficient even to maintain servicemen's pay and the wages of its employees."

Regarding another question from Pozner about reductions in the Army, Grachev reminds him that it costs much more to lose an officer than to it does to keep him on. Grachev then supplies figures about the number of women serving in the Army. He discusses with Pozner the number of female defense ministers in the world—in fact there are only two.

Pozner winds up the program with a series of brief questions. Grachev replies: He supports a professional army in principle, but it would need a huge budget, and: He would prefer that the Defense Ministry be engaged in purely political administrative functions, but we are so used to it being run by the military that we are not yet ready for a civilian minister.

Officials 'Alarmed' by Army Economic Situation

LD1104212194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1823 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The president, the prime-minister, the Defence Ministry and both houses of the Federal Assembly are very alarmed by the position of the Russian Armed Forces as a result of the current economic situation. The statement was made by the speaker of the State Duma Ivan Rybkin during his Monday visit to the Chief Staff of the Strategic Missile Force. He was accompanied by the Deputy Defence Minister Andrey Kokoshin.

Addressing the personnel of the staff Rybkin stressed that the repetition of the 1959 situation should not be permitted. Then 1,200,000 military men were actually thrown out into the street as a result of cuts in the armed forces. The speaker said he agreed with the former American president Richard Nixon who told the press after a recent visit to Russia that the world is complicated and no one wants any "last breaks to the south" anymore.

Rybkin said that in questions related to the army one should be careful with harsh, radical expressions. In his opinion if a pattern of change is chosen, it should not be revolutionary but gradual.

Rybkin said that reforms are irreversible but spoke for tighter measures against those whose "grabbing instincts are extraordinarily developed, who take enormous credit for making giant profits." Rybkin stressed that if the president, government, parliament and other political forces act resolutely and revenue will grow irrespective of the way in which the State Duma approves the budget - in parts or for the whole year at once.

Regional Affairs

Apparatchiks Lead Nizhniy Novgorod Duma Poll

PM1104130194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Orlov under the "Regional Elections" rubric: "The People of the Volga Have Expressed Support for 'The Party of Power'"]

[Text] Niznhiy Novgorod—Election fever has been raging for almost two months in Nizhniy Novgorod. With what outcome? The City Duma elections were declared valid in just 16 of the 34 districts. The enthusiasm of the city's inhabitants was dampened by the postponement of elections for the mayor of Niznhiy Novgorod and the referendum on the city's charter.

The results of the formation of the oblast parliament are more indicative and objective. There were 206 candidates running for 45 seats. The overwhelming majority of them were not affiliated to any party. But, among the candidates as a whole, quite a different affiliation, not registered anywhere, "appeared" of its own accord—the "party of power." It is made up of officials from the executive structures: rayon and city administration heads and department and administration staffers.

One noticeable aspect of the Nizhniy Novgorod elections was the appearance of the "Spring" Alliance. This association of young entrepreneurs backed a large group of its colleagues to run as candidates. The "Spring" Alliance, sparing no expense, tested the suitability of Western standards of political advertising on the Nizhniy Novgorod public. The entire election campaign conducted by "Spring" was like a carnival. Air balloons were launched, bright posters displayed, and "star" concerts organized, and the opportunities offered by local radio and television were used extensively.

The overall results of the elections for the Oblast Legislative Assembly read as follows: 32 deputies out of 45 were elected. Of these, 19, or 42 percent, were administration heads and their deputies ("party of power"); 7, or 16 percent, were economic managers; and 6, or 13 percent, were journalists, scientists, and trade union officials. People are tired of fruitless political rhetoric. They want to live normal lives, and pin their hope on people exercising actual power and experienced in economic management, and it is for them that the people of Nizhniy Novgorod voted.

Poll Shows Improved Living Conditions in Chelyabinsk

PM1204092594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 94 First Edition p 1

[Item from roundup of ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA, ITAR-TASS reports: "Chelyabinsk Residents in Luck"]

[Text] The results of a sociological survey commissioned by the city administration and carried out in Chelyabinsk by specialists from the Urals branch of the Center for the Improvement of Labor Organization, Production Management, and Social Development, caused a near sensation.

The sociological survey showed that the status of people in Chelyabinsk, compared with 1992, the year of the collapse, had improved in terms of all indicators: They are materially better off, the housing situation is less acute, basic living standards and the quality of food have improved and are now above average for the region, and the level of prosperity and social protection has risen. The point is that a system of social protection has started operating this year. Thus, expenditure on food now accounts for 49 rather than 70 percent of the family budget, as it was last year.

St. Petersburg Election Analyzed

944F0547A St. Petersburg SANKT PETERBURGSKIYE VEDOMOSTI in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Ye. Dolgopyatova: "Women and Workers Were Not Elected"]

[Text] Yesterday the city electoral commission held a news conference in Mariynskiy Palace and made public the preliminary results of the second round of elections to the St. Petersburg City Assembly.

Only 18.76 percent of the overall number of registered voters participated in the voting. Elections were held in 24 electoral precincts. The social composition of the deputies is curious: eight were managers, five were teachers, four were businessmen, three were scientific associates, three were representatives of public organizations, and one, an office employee. Not a single worker was among the candidates who were elected. Among the deputies there is not a single representative of the fairer sex. All five women who entered the second round suffered defeat by their male competitors.

The deputy chairman of the city electoral commission, R.G. Malova, noted that the situation was calmer in the second round of the elections. There were no serious complaints or grievances. In Rita Grigoryevna's opinion, the voters made their choice, which was significantly different from the results of the first round, on the basis of television and radio debates, which helped the Petersburgers to get to know the candidates directly. According to observations of the state electoral commission, it was mostly the older generation who voted and there were practically no youth at the precincts except a certain number of students and military servicemen.

A very strange situation developed in the 39th electoral district of Oktyabrskiy Rayon. As we know, the state electoral commission kept an eye out for violations when the results of the first round of voting were being summed up. According to information from the chairman of the city electoral commission, V.I. Fomichev, only 20,030 people voted here during 20-21 March, while there are 80,875 voters registered in Oktyabrskiy Rayon. Thus, the necessary 25 percent did not participate in the first round of voting. On these grounds the city electoral commission declared the first round of elections in the 39th district to be null and void. But the city's mayor, A.A. Sobchak, subsequently overrode the decision of the city commission, and on 3 April there was a repeat vote in this district as well. But the city electoral commission did not intend to take these results into account.

V.I. Fomichev thinks that the city acted in keeping with the Statute on Elections to the City Assembly within the limits of its authority and that no official has the right to override its decision. This can be done only though the courts.

Thus another has been added to the many points of confusion regarding the past elections.

Election Protested

944F0547B St. Petersburg NEVSKOYE VREMYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Article by Viktoriya Rabotnova: "Shall We Begin at the Beginning?"]

[Text] The Council of Electoral Associations has confirmed its statement of 21 March, which discusses the illegality of the spring elections to the City Assembly. The council continues to insist on conducting in 1994 truly democratic elections to the deputy corps, combining the voting with a poll of the population concerning confidence in the mayor of St. Petersburg.

It is worth noting that the petition was signed not only by those who lost but also by the "City We Love" movement, whose candidates won in five districts, and also the "Our City—Our Home" and "Unity for Progress" movements, which also achieved a certain amount of success. As we know, Aleksandr Shelkanov has not changed his opinion about the illegality of the elections, but the representatives of "Democratic Unity," "Business St. Petersburg," and "All St. Petersburg" still hold the opposite viewpoint.

Incidentally, the leaders of "Democratic Unity" are now in Moscow—the question of the elections in our city is expected to be discussed at today's session of the State Duma.

Maritime Kray Governor Interviewed

944F0544A Vladivostok KRASNOYE ZNAMYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Interview with Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, governor of Maritime Kray, by Yelena Belykh; place and date not given: "Extricating Ourselves From the Captivity of Dead Schemes"]

[Text] Despite all of life's burdens which fall to the lot of the "average" Maritimer, one virtue of existence in the province by the sea is indisputable—things are tranquil here. The political battles in the capital roll down to us in gentle waves, fortunately. But the social peace is fragile.

In terms of per capita income the Maritime area is in last place in the region. The gap between rich and poor is growing. A bank employee receives 2.5 times more than a worker, three times more than a teacher, and four times more than a peasant. The two minimums—wage and subsistence—differ from one another tens of times over. How to beat back the wave of growing social tension and prevent the eruption of a "rebellion senseless and pitiless"? Our correspondent took this question to a surgery on personal matters at the residence of Ye. Nazdratenko, governor of the kray.

[Belykh] Yevgeniy Ivanovich, on her resignation Ella Pamfilova, minister of social protection, told the press that she could not deceive people. The government was adopting another decree, as a result of which a quantity of watermarked notes would be printed. They are distributed to the poor, but frequently only when prices have exceeded the posted price many times over. What is there for needy Maritimers to hope for?

[Nazdratenko] The realism of government decrees is a painful subject. Is there, say, a decree on privileges for the casualties from the accident at the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Station? Yes, and very handsome it is. Has the government allocated the region money? Not one ruble. People are coming to us, to the administration, for help—there is no money. Is there a decree on officers discharged into the reserve, on apartments being built for them? Yes. And there is inflation, which is devouring the funds which were at one time allocated. One apartment instead of five—that's the arithmetic. The list could be continued ad infinitum. Take if only the first edict of the president on education and the way it has been fulfilled.

All this cannot fail to stoke the people's exasperation. This runs counter to my inner convictions, incidentally. Remember one of the numerous promises of Gaydar—the favorite of young people and the West, the personification of progressive thinking? "Only bikers will feel the increase in the price of fuel." It has been felt by retirees—the most defenseless group of society. We, the kray, have been able to cover them, reduce the prices, and allow gasoline benefits. We are posting the militia, we are posting the Special Militia so that the elderly individual may fill up in peace and not be humiliated by the "leather" boys. He rides away, and half a kilometer further on that same junior mafioso stops him and siphons off the gasoline. Who is to blame?

[Belykh] Nazdratenko, naturally. When people voted for the new constitution, for continuation of the reforms, they voted for you also.

[Nazdratenko] I am not sure that if a ballot were conducted now, I would collect as many white balls, but I would ask people to believe in one thing—the sincerity of my motives when I attempt to do something. We are working on a decree on the economic status of the kray. We are not demanding direct financial infusions into a moribund economy, but release us from the captivity of dead schemes born of anonymous government officials somewhere in Moscow! Afford us an opportunity to manage preferential quantity regulation and licensing! The Yaroslavskiy Mining and Concentrating Works is at a standstill—people have no earnings, the community is dying. Grant it the opportunity to sell products in a profitable manner, and people will have money. Money, not "compensation payments." The infrastructure would be restored, the social sphere would revive.

[Belykh] The same hopes were placed in Government Decree 1001.

[Nazdratenko] True, but who torpedoed this decree? It was buried here, in the Maritime region, by Bytov and Cherepkov. I was accused of blackmailing the government. The same thing will probably be repeated with the decree. According to the principle: "If a man exists, you can pin something on him." The business of the tanker filled with radioactive waste. "Nazdratenko is lobbying a Japanese company!" Very well, you don't want a cleanup by the Japanese for free, within 20 days? Accept the alternative—18 months of construction for over $2 million. But the kray would not pay this. I have no intention of taking crumbs from pensions and children's compensation to pay some firm in Moscow for secretaries and private residences.

Yes, I am a lobbyist. I lobby for the interests of the Maritimers. Only not those who roll around in Mercedes and talk with competitors in the language of lampoons and grenades. The interests of normal working people, who bring their troubles to my surgery. Whom we, the authorities, are required to provide with a normal peaceful life.

Transdniester Government Proposes Russian Army Base

LD1104184694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The government of the self-styled Republic of Transdniestria [Dniester] supports the idea of setting up a Russian military base on the basis of the Russian 14th Army, Transdniestrian state secretary Valeriy Litskay told INTERFAX on Monday. However, there has been no official proposal from Moscow yet, he said.

Litskay stressed that the base question and the future of Transdniestria could be discussed in parallel at bilateral talks with Moldova. The latest round of talks on 9 April gives the chance for settling the dispute, Litskay said. And he added that the emergence of a Russian Army base in Transdniestria could help resolve many controversial issues.

Tatarstan's Oil Industry in 'Grave Crisis'

PM1204101194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Boris Bronshteyn: "Tatar Oilmen on the Verge of Bankruptcy"]

[Text] Kazan—A financial crisis has arisen in the Tatneft Joint-Stock Company. Consumers' debts, which totalled 197 billion rubles [R] at the beginning of the year, have reached R343 billion. The Tatneft leadership has been forced to take extraordinary measures.

IZVESTIYA's correspondent was told in Tatneft's public relations department that the work of drilling teams, teams for the underground and capital repair of wells, and of production facilities and shops not directly engaged in the extraction and preparation of oil was suspended for six weeks from the beginning of April. Employees of the production facilities, which have been halted, are being granted administrative leave with payment of the minimum wage.

The situation is exacerbated by the fact that sulfur-bearing oil has entirely ceased to be pumped to Kremenchug Oil Refinery owing to uncertainties in relations between Ukraine and Russia. This has made it necessary to halt all extraction of sulfur-bearing oil, which was being extracted from 5,300 wells.

The 50th anniversary of the opening of the first oil field on the Republic's territory was celebrated in Tataria [Tatarstan] last fall. This is only the third year that Tataria, which proclaimed the underground wealth to be its own property, has been independently exporting oil (within the quota agreed with Russia). The stake on petrodollars was very high when formulating and realizing the ideas of the republic's sovereignty. The proceeds from oil sales helped to soften the entry into the market for Tataria's inhabitants. But today, the oil sector's indicators are simply joyless. Suffice it to say that oil extraction in the first quarter of this year fell by 1.8 million tonnes compared with the same period last year.

Oilmen believe that only concerted action by Tataria and Russia can ensure a way out of the grave crisis.

Radioactive Waste Dumping Developments

944F0544B Vladivostok KRASNOYE ZNAMYA in Russian 6 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by I. Mikhaylov: "In the Sea of Japan, For All That!: That's Where Our Liquid Radioactive Waste Will End Up, It Would Seem"]

[Text] Journalists of Vladivostok and also foreign correspondents accredited in the kray center satisfied themselves of this once again at a news conference conducted by Ye. Stomatyuk, chairman of the Natural Resources Committee of the administration of the kray. It is he, incidentally, who was head of the kray interdepartmental commission inspecting the state of radiation safety in the handling of radioactive waste at the Zvezda Plant, which was in the city of Bolshoy Kamen on 30 March of this year.

Quite a lot has already been written about this problem (KRASNOYE ZNAMYA of 17 February, "Nuclear Scrapes," and of 31 March, "Large Dollar Sum for Moscow," and a mass of publications in the local and central papers), and I will emphasize merely that the above commission reached yet again the conclusion concerning the impossibility of the storage of liquid radioactive waste in the current tanks in direct proximity to a center of population. The situation has deteriorated particularly at TNT-5, at which leaks were discovered. A real threat of radioactive contamination hangs over the waters of the Gulf of Ussuriysk and Bolshoy Kamen Bay, especially since the development of an emergency situation is expected in April-May with the arrival of settled warmth.

The commission recommended in May that the liquid radioactive waste be dumped in the Sea of Japan at the points determined in the 1980's. It had not been considered possible doing this earlier on account of the fact that the liquid radioactive waste had frozen to a thickness of 60-70 cm. And, second, the urgent building of repositories and an industrial plant for decontaminating and reprocessing the liquid radioactive waste.

The first recommendation could be canceled if in the very near future Moscow either allocates the funds for the designated construction or permits Japanese firms to embark on the realization of their own proposals. In this case the tankers would temporarily be taken to a place presenting no danger to people's lives.

Journalists had attempted to take part in the work of the commission, incidentally, but the Pacific Fleet representative barred them from the liquid radioactive waste storage sites. And the question at the news conference as to whether the Pacific Fleet would submit to a decision of the administration on the dumping of liquid radioactive waste in the Sea of Japan if such were adopted was not inappropriate in this connection. According to the Constitution, the fleet is required to submit inasmuch as local authorities are entitled, when it comes to questions of the environment, to adopt independent decisions, but Russia has yet to act so rectilinearly in accordance with the law. It is not known what Moscow will tell the Pacific Fleet.

The work force of the Zvezda Plant and the population of the city of Bolshoy Kamen will have something to say also, for that matter. I believe that their opinion cannot be relegated to the bottom of the pile.

International Affairs

Navy's Second-in-Charge Arrested Following Incident

AU0904151994 Paris AFP in English 1509 GMT 9 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 9 April (AFP)—Russian sailors arrested the Ukrainian Navy's number two after his coastguards were prevented from boarding a survey vessel of the disputed Black Sea Fleet, a Ukrainian Navy spokesman said Saturday.

The Navy's Deputy Commander in Chief, Nikolay Zhibarev, was held overnight Friday [8 April] when he boarded the ship as it left the Ukrainian port of Odessa for Sevastopol, the Fleet's base in Crimea, with a Russian Navy crew at the helm, the spokesman said.

The vessel was fitted with ocean survey and radionavigation equipment valued at 10 million dollars, the spokesman said.

Ukrainian coastguards tried to board the vessel because it had been "illegally" moved from its berth, but Zhibarev was arrested by Russian sailors called as reinforcements from Odessa, the spokesman added.

The same source added that the Russian sailors had been ordered to shoot if necessary to retain control of the ship.

At Sevastopol, top officials of the Fleet, which is based in the autonomous Ukrainian republic of Crimea but under the de facto control of the Russian Navy, said they had no information on the arrest of Zhibarev.

Fleet spokesman Andrey Grachev added that the ship "was not examined by the coastguards because it was operating within a Fleet deployment zone and was travelling from one Ukrainian port to another."

Grachev said Ukraine had not paid for the survey equipment, which had therefore needed to be returned to Sevastopol.

Black Sea Fleet Leader Seeks Stabilization in Odessa

LD1104144094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1356 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS special correspondent Vadim Byrkin]

[Excerpt] Sevastopol 11 April, TASS— "The command of the Black Sea Fleet is doing everything possible to stabilise the situation in the region," Black Sea Fleet Commander Admiral Eduard Baltin told ITAR-TASS on Monday.

Baltin described the recent actions against the Black Sea Fleet by the Ukrainian side as unlawful. He praised the Russian Government for support of the Fleet.

Black Sea Fleet First Deputy Commander Vitaliy Larionov quoted Ukrainian Defence Ministry officials as saying earlier today that all Fleet facilities seized by Ukrainian Servicemen in Odessa had been freed as of 1600 Monday. [passage omitted]

Russian Report of Odessa Incident 'Provocation'

LD1104174594 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1515 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 11 April—Reports by the Black Sea Fleet press center on the course of events in Odessa on 10 April accuse Ukraine of an armed attack on Garrison 318 of a fleet division belonging to the Black Sea Fleet conservation which, as the Black Sea Fleet press center stresses, was in the "best traditions of the SS Galicia division."

The press service of Ukraine's Defense Ministry states that the reports of the Black Sea Fleet are a provocation and an outrageous lie. There was no "attack" in Odessa. In reality, a group of officers was detained: Oleg Feoktistov, Dmitriy Starikov, and Aleksandr Zelenko, but they were detained for unlawful actions during an incident concerning the piratical seizure from Odessa of valuable navigational equipment on 9 April by the Black Sea Fleet hydrographic vessel Cheleken. Apart from refusing to heed an order from a senior naval officer, the abovementioned officers called on their subordinates, who had arrived on board the Cheleken, to "aim their weapons at the Ukrainian seamen; to prepare to fire; and to fire at will." The statement from the Ukrainian Ministry of Defense press center states that such actions by the officers led to the emergence of a real threat to the security in the port of Odessa.

The actions of the command of Garrison 318 were directed at provoking an armed conflict between the servicemen of the Black Sea Fleet and officials of the port of Odessa, the border guards, and the personnel of the Ukrainian Navy. Officials of the Ukrainian Defense Ministry and law enforcement bodies are investigating the circumstances of the incident, which could have caused the deaths of the personnel. All the actions are taking place in accordance with the current legislation of Ukraine. There were no cases of violence in relation to the division's personnel and none whatsoever in relation to members of their families.

The statement says that there is no doubt that it was a planned provocation aimed not only at seizing valuable equipment but also designed to disregard Ukrainian laws. The press service of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense categorically rejects the untrue information that is being circulated by Russian mass media. Not only does it not conform to reality, but it also undermines trust and sows hostility between the friendly peoples of neighboring countries. Ukraine has proposed that Russia's Ministries of Defense and Foreign Affairs send their representatives to take part in investigating the incident.

Russia Protests Odessa Fleet Incident

LD1104184294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 11 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskyy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] As INTERFAX has learned from a well-placed source in Kiev, Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk had a telephone conversation with Russia's Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin on Monday. The two leaders discussed an incident, involving an attack by Ukrainian special troops on an Odessa-based division of Black Sea Fleet ships put into reserve and the arrest of three naval officers. (INTERFAX Note: As the Black Sea Fleet's Spokesman Andrey Grachev has reported to Interfax, about 120 Ukrainian servicemen assaulted Odessa's division of Black Sea Fleet ships on Sunday. They arrested the Division Commander, Captain First Class Oleg Feoktistov, the Coast Base Commander, Captain Second Class Dmitry Starikov, and the Division's Chief of Staff, Captain Second Class Aleksandr Zelenk. These officers were hand cuffed and have been held in custody without any charge. The other servicemen and their families have been locked in their compound by special forces.)

Although a Russian government spokesman has confirmed Chernomyrdin's telephone conversation with Kravchuk, he has declined to divulge its substance.

Meanwhile, the Russian cabinet has resolutely protested to Ukraine's government at the latest attack and the previous use of force against the Black Sea Fleet's ship "Cheleken" at Odessa.

It released a statement in Moscow on Monday, describing Kiev's actions as a crude violation of the agreements reached by the presidents of the two countries to refrain from one-sided actions toward the Black Sea Navy and respect all bilateral accords. The document also says that the actions trampled upon the international law and human rights and were undoubtedly deliberate.

The Russian Government demanded that the servicemen and members of their families be set free immediately, the rules on naval facilities that existed before the provocation be restored without delay, an investigation be conducted, and all necessary measures be applied to those who are to blame. The Russian Government stressed that Moscow had always sought to promote friendship and cooperation with Kiev.

The Duma Council on Monday asked Ivan Rybkin, the chairman of the Russian parliament's lower house, to send Kravchuk a cable concerning the seizure of Russian ships in Odessa. In an interview with INTERFAX, a Duma member Sergey Shakhray, a deputy premier has blamed the incident on the absence of operational procedures for Russia and Ukraine in regard to the Black Sea Fleet. (INTERFAX Note: President Kravchuk has described the Massandra accords on the Black Sea Navy (on its transfer to Russia) as a protocol rather than a decision. No one has revoked the fleet-sharing agreements reached in Yalta and Zavidovo, Kravchuk declared.)

Black Sea Fleet Division Reorganized as Ukraine Navy

LD1104213594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1912 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspsondent Yefim Shvartsman]

[Text] Odessa 11 April, TASS—The Ukrainian defence minister issued an order to reorganise the beleaguered 318th Division of the Black Sea Fleet into a unit of the Ukrainian Navy.

The move followed the incident that involved a Black Sea Fleet research ship, Cheleken, which on the night of 9 April sailed to Sevastopol with the division's Mars radar system aboard in spite of the prohibitions issued by the Odessa navy authorities.

The ship refused to produce transportation documents. Vyacheslav Voronkov, head of the press centre of the Odessa Military District, said the Ukrainian side is likely to institute legal proceedings. Three division senior officers—Division Commander Oleg Feoktistov, Chief of Staff Aleksandr Zelenko and Logistics Officer Dmitriy Starikov—were taken to the Odessa military prosecutor on the night of 11 April, but were released after questioning. Voronkov failed to explain why they were summoned to the prosecutor's office at night and could not say where they are now since none of them could be reached either at home or at work.

The division's personnel were offered to take the Ukrainian military oath of allegiance on Monday morning or quit army service. So far about 50 officers have agreed to switch sides. The press centre of the Odessa Military District said that about 75-80 per cent of the division's officers and warrant officers are ready to take the Ukrainian oath of allegiance.

The Ukrainian Defence Ministry called on the Russian foreign and defence ministries to send representatives to Ukraine to settle the conflict, Ukrainian television said.

Russian Detainees Released; Commandos Control Unit

LD1204085394 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] Our correspondent Yevgeniy Novikov was told by the Black Sea Fleet's press center that as a result of talks between representatives of the fleet command and Ukraine's naval forces, the arrested Russian officers and civilians were released yesterday evening. They were seized by Ukrainian special purpose troops at the fleet's reserve division near Odessa. However, the division remains under the control of 60 Ukrainian special purpose commandos who are preventing representatives of the Black Sea Fleet command from approaching the division's most important facilities.

Military Chiefs: Ministry Tried To Avoid Conflict

LD1104220594 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] On 11 April Colonel General Anatoliy Lopata, chief of the General Staff of Ukraine's armed forces and first deputy minister of defense, and Deputy Defense Minister Col. Gen. Ivan Bizhan held a briefing for diplomats accredited to Kiev concerning the incidents in Odessa 8-10 April. The generals cited facts and documents proving that from the very beginning Ukraine's Defense Ministry made every effort to avoid a conflict. In particular, General Lopata sent a telegram to the leaders of Russia's Defense Ministry in which he pleaded with them to keep the ship in Odessa until the situation had been clarified. Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy made a number of unsuccessful attempts to contact his Russian colleague, Pavel Grachev, by telephone. The minister then sent a telegram to Grachev, in which he explained the main points of the affair and the position of Ukraine's Ministry of Defense. The reply from Russia's minister of defense revealed that he was totally uninformed about the situation in Odessa and deliberately ignored the facts.

Vitaliy Radetskyy said that the arbitrary actions taken by the leadership of the Black Sea Fleet will be stopped in the appropriate manner. He invited a competent commission to Kiev which will ascertain all the issues relating to the Black Sea Fleet. This commission has arrived in the Ukrainian capital.

Defense Minister on Control of Remaining Nuclear Arms

LD1104210394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2012 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Temnenkov—all quotation marks as received]

[Text] Bonn 12 April, TASS—Replying to a question as to who controls nuclear weapons deployed on Ukraine's territory, the Republic's Defence Minister V. Radetskyy, who was addressing a press conference at the end of his visit to Germany, said that at present there is a bilateral control on such weapons. But it is ordered by Ukraine, as "it is her property, the minister emphasised. A tripartite agreement on nuclear weapons was signed and a timetable of its withdrawal and destruction was approved this year in Moscow through the U.S. mediation. "The Ukrainian side is consistently and sincerely observing" this time-table, he said. According to him, until now two train loads of nuclear warheads have been despatched to Russia. In exchange Ukraine was supposed to receive fuel for its nuclear power plants from Russia. But Russia has not fulfilled this condition for the time being. That is why we have been obliged to suspend the time-table of withdrawal, to clarify it and make it binding on Russia to honour its commitments," he said.

National Affairs

Plyushch Speaks on Role of Parliament, Prime Minister

LD1104173794 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 0930 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Kiev, 10 Apr [date as received]—Ivan Plyushch, chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Council, has spoken on television. He said, in particular:

"...The new parliament's priority is to form a government that will assume full executive power and work to stabilize the socioeconomic situation, elect a head of government, decide whether he should be the head of the executive power branch (and I adhere to the view that the prime minister should be the head of executive power) and instruct him to form a working government within the shortest possible period of time.

"Another priority step would be to amend the law on the president. We need to decide what the president of Ukraine should do, and then pass a law on the powers of local power bodies dividing powers and functions between the central and local executive power bodies..."

In reply to a question on Ukraine's relations with the CIS, Plyushch said: "A summit of CIS heads of state is due to be held soon, and Leonid Makarovych Kravchuk will go there with a whole package of proposals on the integration of our economic system with other countries."

Left-Wing Bloc Wins 112 Seats in New Parliament

LD1104190594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] INTERFAX-Ukraine has been informed that 335 out of 450 members of the Ukrainian parliament were elected between 27 March and 10 April.

Communists won the greatest number of seats—83—Socialists, 14, the Farmers' Party, 15. All three belong to the Left-Wing Bloc and intend to coordinate their steps in the new parliament. Thus, the bloc has a total of 112 seats.

Two members belong to the Civic Congress, four to the Inter-Regional Bloc for Reforms, 21 to the People's RUKh, two to the Democratic Party. There are also four members of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists and three from the radical nationalist UNA-UNSO. Also 167 independent members of parliament were elected. In the remaining 115 electoral districts new elections will be held. There either the turnout was too low or none of the candidates collected the necessary majority.

Politicians Comment on Election Results

LD1104212894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1754 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The Ukrainian People's Rukh leader, Vyacheslav Chornovil, suggested that the new Ukrainian parliament would not be better than the previous one. He emphasized that the Rukh must join with the national democratic forces and people who did not call for an empire and whose activities were aimed at strengthening Ukraine's statehood.

Chornovil said two people had very much wanted to gain from these elections. Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk would gain if the elections failed and former Supreme Soviet speaker Ivan Plyushch could have extended the powers of former deputies if the elections failed. Everything was arranged in order that the elections be invalid, Chornovil suggested. He added that these plans had been broken by the Ukrainian people.

When asked whether he will run for president, Chornovil pointed out that it could not be discussed since the president's powers had not as yet been defined.

Meanwhile, a member of the former Supreme Soviet's presidium, Les Tanyuk, said at a press conference in Kiev that the Communist majority in the new parliament did not mean their complete victory. Tanyuk believes that leftist politicians, most of who are about 60 years old, will not be capable of influencing decision-making in the parliament. "The victory of Communists does not signify a victory of the Communist idea," Tanyuk stressed.

When commenting on the early results of the parliamentary elections, a leader of the Inter-Regional Reform Bloc, former deputy chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet, Vladimir Grinev, emphasized that nothing unexpected had happened. "Certainly, it will be difficult with the Communists. However, we have lived with them for all our life, we can live with them a little more," he said. Grinev said his movement could join with the left in the parliament on some issues.

Grinev told INTERFAX-Ukraine that he had not as yet decided whether he would run for the coming presidential elections in Ukraine. He remarked that it was necessary to analyze the results of the elections to the Supreme Soviet.

Grinev said he could decide on his participation in the presidential elections on 12 April after his meeting with ex-premier Leonid Kuchma in Kiev. Kuchma is also leader of the Inter-Regional Reform Bloc.

Rukh Leader Views Results

WS1204095294 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1900 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the Rukh, held a press conference today devoted to the results of the second-round legislative elections. The conference aroused so much interest that Mr. Chornovil jokingly said it was not a conference, but another meeting with the electorate of which he conducted more than 200 during his campaign. The main result, according to Vyacheslav Chornovil, is that the elections took place, and the Ukrainian people should be credited with this fact. The Rukh faction held its ground in the new parliament. In the elections, Rukh positioned itself in the center of the political spectrum, rejecting both far- right and far-left slogans. Vyacheslav Chornovil said that Rukh tried to handle its rivals and opponents in a correct manner, which cannot be said about them. The elections showed that our democratic and national movement has a long way to go yet before achieving unity. Those forces, Mr. Chornovil stated, did not participate in the elections as a united front. For example, divisions between Rukh and the Ukrainian Republican Party deepened, and a similar tendency is visible in the case of the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, which diverges the principles of democratic nationalism, on which its cooperation with Rukh was based.

Mr. Chornovil then focused on the flawed Ukrainian electoral legislation and violations reported during the recent voting. One could see that particular concern of the Rukh leader was aroused by the fact that Kiev is left without its legislative core. The elections here were simply torpedoed. Vyacheslav Chornovil stated that Rukh will not allow this to happen in the next, third-round elections, and will vigorously fight for every vacant seat in the parliament so that Kiev is represented by democratically oriented deputies. Democracy cannot do without a lobby in parliament.

[Begin Chornovil recording] There are quite a few independent democrats, or candidates whose independence have not yet been established. Some were in the power structures, and thus stayed out of parties. I think the uniting of democratic forces will be considered, unless some of the hot-headed national democrats shatter this unity. There have already been such attempts. By the way, I would like to see the newly elected Supreme Council carried away by political discussions, which is probably something that our communists will seek. It will be a bad thing if we start squabbling over national symbols or some other political issues. Perhaps we will have to look for [words indistinct] to resolve the serious problems with which Ukraine is presently faced. [end recording]

Crimea Elections Reported Valid

LD1104174994 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1240 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Crimea—Viktor Alsufyev, head of the Crimean Central Electoral Commission, held a news conference at 0900 on 11 April which was devoted to the results of the second round of elections to the Supreme Council of Crimea and the Supreme Council of Ukraine. Forty-nine people's deputies of Crimea were elected in 49 electoral districts. Thus, the elections in Crimea are valid. Out of

98 seats in the parliament, 94 have already been occupied and the Supreme Council of Crimea has a real possibility to begin its work. In the words of Viktor Alsufyev, the Russia bloc won 64 mandates (57.4 percent of those elected); the Communist Party of Crimea will have two deputies; the Party for the Economic Revival of Crimea will have one; the Kurultay of the Crimean Tatars, 14; the Russia Party, one; and the Union of Officers of Crimea, one (who is Vice Admiral Oleksandr Frolov, deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet). As Viktor Alsufyev said, seven deputies were elected from the old Crimean parliament.

According to the current Constitution of the Republic of Crimea, the first session of the Supreme Council of Crimea will be held on 10 May, that is, 30 days after the end of the second round of elections. [passage indistinct]

Parties React

944K1068A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by N. Zubkova: "On Behalf of the Parties"]

[Text] And elections yet again. And not the last. But the fate of the Supreme Council of Ukraine and the parliament of Crimea will have been decided by Monday, 11 April. It is in our hands. This page is devoted to it—directly or indirectly. It is an appeal of the electorate to those who have already been elected, an attempt to analyze the results of the first round, and an introduction of the candidates who have made it through to the second round. In a word, think for yourselves.

KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA has received a statement of the SPRK [Socialist Party of the Republic of Crimea] Political Council, which says, in part, that the stage of the election campaign which has been negotiated "was accompanied by violations of the law of the Republic of Crimea 'On Elections of the Supreme Council of Crimea' and was conducted under conditions impeding in a number of cases the free expression of the citizens," which was a violation of articles 38 and 39 of the law, "and there was frequently concentrated pressure on the electorate by activists of the Russia bloc."

The party believes that the president interfered directly in the election process by means of his initiative pertaining to the organization of a poll of citizens of the Republic simultaneously with the elections.

The party experienced direct threats and blackmail on the part of the supporters of other political parties—this was possible thanks to the policy of implacability toward different political views: "I. Khodykin, candidate for deputy and member of the SPRK Political Council, was subjected to armed assault and battery, and the appearances of the SPRK candidates on radio and television and in the press, obligatory by law, were frequently aborted. All this culminated in the president's appeal in his speech on television on 25 March for people to shun the ballot for elections to the Supreme Council of Ukraine and to vote only for his associates, which should be considered a direct violation of the constitution and the Election Act."

In this connection the SPRK Political Council deemed it necessary to insistently demand that the Central Election Commission "consider the elections null and void and, in accordance with Article 64 of the law 'On Elections of the Supreme Council of Crimea,' schedule new elections within the established timeframe."

In respect to the first demand the party is prepared to present the Central Election Commission with all the necessary papers confirming the instances of violations.

A statement of similar content was addressed by the Crimean Tatar National Movement to the presidents of Crimea, Ukraine, and Russia and the news media. The CTNM [Crimean Tatar National Movement] evaluates the elections to the Supreme Council of Crimea as "an act of the greatest outrage against the will of the Crimean Tatar people."

As the statement says, "the three years of the fooling of the people by the state-run news media together with the most flagrant violations of the Election Act... ensured the co-optation into the Supreme Council of Crimea of the "Kurultay-Majlis" cohort.

Consequently, the information working group of the CTNM concludes, the imperial "Crimea without the Crimean Tatar people" policy is hereby continued, and it places the responsibility for the further development of events on the leaders of the above-mentioned states.

The appeal of the Russia bloc says that it thanks Crimeans for the support of President Yu. Meshkov and the candidates of the Russia bloc in the first round of the elections. "This support is very palpable: Of the possible 14 seats by party slate, the Russia bloc obtained 11, that is, 78.57 percent.

"In addition, from the 66 single-seat districts in the first round of voting, 12 deputies were elected from the Russia bloc, and 48 candidates have gone on to the second round. The elections were not held in four districts, unfortunately."

The Russia bloc called on the electorate to once again support its candidates "so that the new parliament can begin work and so that President Yu. Meshkov can obtain a legislative base for realization of the program of the Russia bloc."

Returns Detailed

WS1204083994 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by Anatoliy Polynskyy]

[Text] The word resident means to vote in the Crimean language—so joked a journalist at a briefing at the Central Electoral Commission devoted to the second round elections. There is indeed some truth in this joke. Although the Crimeans have already gone to the polls four times since the beginning of this year, it is still too early to summarize the elections. The election results for the Ukrainian Supreme Council are particularly unsatisfactory, despite the fact that they were held in all 23 constituencies. The majority of candidates for people's deputy did not manage to reach the so-called 20-percent threshold set by Ukrainian legislation, meaning that less than a quarter of registered voters voted for them. Of course, it is sad, but the Crimea, nonetheless, elected 11 deputies to the Ukrainian parliament, including five women. The remaining 12 deputies will have to be elected in repeat elections which are to be within the next six months.

The Crimean parliament, however, has been virtually formed. Moreover, the first session of the Crimean Supreme Council has already been scheduled. According to legislation of the Autonomous Republic, the first session is supposed to be held 30 days after the elections—on 10 May. The final decision, however, is to be made by the former Supreme Council Presidium. Who won seats in the new parliament? There should be 98 deputies, 94 of which have already been elected, including 55 representatives of the "Rossiya" bloc. Eleven deputies have been reelected to the Supreme Council.

It must be noted that the current elections confirmed the complete collapse of the communist idea on the peninsula. In the Supreme Council, the Communist Party will be represented by only two deputies. An additional two deputies were elected from the Party of Economic Revival of the Crimea, and one deputy was elected from the Russian Party. By the way, Serhiy Shuvaynikov, leader of the Russian Party, was again defeated. He was elected neither president nor deputy. The voters did not put their confidence in Valeriy Averkin, leader of the Russian-Speaking Movement of the Crimea and manager of the scandalous Impex 55 Krym association. Nevertheless, there will be enough people in the new parliament to deliver speeches, debate, and fight against Ukrainian nationalists. Oleksandr Kruhlov, the organizer of countless meetings in Sevastopol, is one of them. There will be enough people to support this restless fighter for the historic truth and victory of the Russian idea in the Crimea. The number of orators elected to the new parliament is impressive—Viktor Mezha, Borys Kozyryov, Yuriy Rozhonyuk, Lidiya Kovalenko, Tatyana Ryabchykova. Time will tell, however, if the new parliament will be able to work constructively and adopt laws needed for economic reforms.

Kravchuk Discusses 'Executive Presidential Power'

WS1104201794 Kiev UT-1 Television Network in Ukrainian 1335 GMT 11 Apr 94

[President Leonid Kravchuk statement in the "Without Protocol" program—recorded]

[Text] I hope that the elections will be valid. I am analyzing yesterday's round—12 deputies were elected from 16 constituencies. It is preliminary information that has to be checked [pauses]... Thus, we already have 90 deputies. Today, over 350 will be elected. [passage indistinct] However, it seems to me that the new Supreme Council will face a need [pauses]... a need to determine its attitude toward the elections on 26 June [presidential elections]. The problem is not in holding or not holding the elections—I have never [words indistinct]. We have agreed to it, and adopted laws that the elections must be held. However, in my opinion, the main point is to elect an authoritative and strong power built on a distinct legal basis. This is the main point. [pauses] In order to explain this thesis, I will use one example regarding the presidency. Having finally adopted a law on local authorities, the [Supreme Council] session—we will say it openly—restored a Soviet form of state management. We do not need to discuss now whether this is good or bad. This is not essential. [The session] has restored it—it is a real fact. Further, [the session] has ruined—if the elections are to be held under this law without any adopted amendments—the executive presidential power. Thus, at a local level, executive presidential power already does not exist. If we are to elect a president with the powers that he has today as head of state and executive power, we will institute at the beginning—on the election level—contradictions and a conflicting situation. The president is being elected as head of executive power, but there are no structures for executive power. Therefore, it is not incidental that after the president had been elected, the issue of the creation of presidential structures at local levels emerged. The Soviet form of power was built distinctly—lower-ranking bodies of power were subordinated to higher-ranking ones without any restrictions; moreover, there was also the Communist Party which, like a pivot, determined the entire structure of subordination. Where the Soviet form of distinct subordination did not exist, there was a distinct party subordination. That is to say, it was a thought-over structure [words indistinct] Now, this is ruined. If so, a question emerges: Why elect a president as head of executive power if he already has no structures—to make him head of the Cabinet of Ministers? But the Cabinet of Ministers is to be headed by the prime minister, is it not? [unidentified voice answers—Undoubtedly] Undoubtedly. Thus, the Supreme Council has to determine which president must be elected. It is indispensable. Without this, it will be an unnecessary waste of money and [pauses] effort, which will not be followed by real consequences. If the president is only the head of state, with limited powers, because the Soviet form of power has already been created [pauses]... In the Soviet form of power, presidential executive [power] does not exist, and cannot exist. It follows from polls [as heard] whether we have to elect a president in nationwide elections. Why does it follow? But has he been elected in nationwide elections? It was for the purpose of confirming a strong executive power. By now, you see, we do not have [this power] anymore. One more question. Let us take the same law. You will see that it provides [pauses]... These are representative bodies of power. However, they are delegated with state authority—at the local level, I mean. Rayons, cities, and oblasts are delegated with state authority. What authority and how much—there is nothing about this issue. It has been written that this will be determined by a separate law. Then, such a question emerges: What percent [of the powers] will be delegated—20 percent, or 30 percent? What percent will be left to the government? If 70 percent of the state powers are delegated, the government will be left with 30 percent. A question emerges: What kind of government must be created—with 40 ministries, or with 15? What powers will the government have if the current structure is unnecessary due to the delegation of state powers to rayons, oblasts, and cities? I do not say that this is bad. Perhaps, it is good. However, the Supreme Council must adopt a law on the delegation of powers to the local authorities. It is written there that they will be delegated by a separate law, but there is no such law. However, the law on local self-government is in force. In accordance with this law, lower-ranking bodies of power do not subordinate to higher-ranking ones. Again, from the first days, there is no legal and political clarity on how these bodies will work. The last thing. I have even read it in a paper, or have seen it on television that the law provides that the head of the executive power may be dismissed by the Cabinet of Ministers. There is no such provision there. This was in the draft. Someone has read the draft. It is written there that if the head [of the executive power] infringes, he may be dismissed from the post in accordance with the law. Again, there is no law on it. This way, it is necessary for the new Supreme Council to adopt, if we do not want to be laughed at, I want to say it quite openly [pauses]... I do not address it to someone personally, this is a state building. Having resolved at the Supreme Council to build a state according to Soviet [word indistinct] This is the right of the Supreme Council. However, one need all institutes [pauses]... all issues must be determined in accordance with this structure, with regard both to the president and to the Cabinet of Ministers, as well as to the powers delegated to these bodies of power. If the Supreme Council convenes in late April or in early May—it is a realistic term—and if all these laws are adopted, then the Supreme Council will be able to determine whether one needs to lose trillions for nationwide presidential elections, or whether the president will be only a representative figure, and there is no need for nationwide presidential elections. That is why those who today are considering running for the presidency have to ponder what presidents they will be if the laws are not adopted. With regard to my person, to my position, I do not want—excuse my words—to discuss this issue until these laws are adopted.

Kravchuk Notes Lack of Economic Reforms in Crimea

AU1204105994 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 8 Apr 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "The President is a Guest of the Press Club"]

[Text] At a meeting of the press club for market reforms Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk answered reporters' questions. The reporters asked many questions in both the political and economic domains, and in a future issue of our paper we will carry an extended report on the meeting. The media representatives could not, of course, refrain from asking questions about the situation in the Crimea. In answering them, the Ukrainian president stated that from the very beginning he was in favor of granting the Crimean Republic most extensive economic powers (incidentally, like the Ukrainian oblasts), but not a single edict dealing with the economy has been adopted in the Crimea. He said the power structures there are engaged in political bustle, adopting decisions on various referendums, the dismissal of the head of Crimean television and radio, and moving the clocks forward. However, the Ukrainian president emphasized, the present budget of the Crimean Republic has been approved completely in accordance with Crimea's wishes. Therefore, the Crimean authorities themselves will have to be answerable for their mistakes before the people. I can move the clock even now, Kravchuk concluded. However, this will not improve the economic situation.

Kravchuk, Chernomyrdin To Meet on Odessa Incident

WS1104184994 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] According to information from the press service of Ukraine's president and the Cabinet of Ministers, on 11 April, Ukraine's President Leonid Kravchuk had a telephone conversation with Russian Federation Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. During the conversation, the situation regarding the incident in Odessa was [word indistinct] discussed. President Leonid Kravchuk and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin agreed to immediately hold a meeting of Ukrainian and Russian delegations for resolving problems concerning the Black Sea Fleet in accordance with agreements adopted in Yalta, [word indistinct] Masandra.

Situation 'Under Full Control'

WS1104191894 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] By now, the situation in the Black Sea Fleet's conservation division has been stabilized, and is under full control. This information was disclosed in an interview to the NOVYNY Broadcasting Agency by Volodymyr Orlov, Odessa senior naval chief [starshyy morskyy nachalnik]. He emphasized that the majority of division personnel will continue their service in the Ukrainian Navy. Material for initiating criminal suits against Oleh Feokistov, commander of the division, Oleksandr Zelenko, chief of the division staff, and Dmytro Starikov, commander of the coastal base, is being prepared. Volodymyr Orlov also emphasized that Russian media reports do not correspond to reality—there were neither wounded children nor wounded servicemen.

Crimea Support for Kuchma Bloc Advocated

944K1068B Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 2

[Article by Yu. Koltsov, candidate for people's deputy of Ukraine for Electoral District 34: "And, As a Result, What?"]

[Text] The president of Crimea appeared on Crimean television two days prior to the elections on 27 March 1994, splitting his speech into two parts: an official part and, appended to it, "the position simply of a citizen of Crimea."

The official part expressed hostility toward elections in Crimea of people's deputies of Ukraine, and he said plainly in the "unofficial" part that he would not participate in this ballot and would take his ballot paper away with him. This was what 18 percent of the electorate did in Feodosiya, following the president's example.

And, as a result, what?

These events are quite serious and wide-ranging. It is impossible to step over them without making an attempt to comprehend this.

Unfortunately, the president does not see the need for the creation of a "support group" of deputies from Crimea in the Ukrainian parliament. A candidate for deputy of Ukraine from Sevastopol, who had come from the Baltic, points out directly in this connection that the "Russian speakers" also decided there formerly to boycott the parliamentary elections and paid a cruel price for this.

A powerful "counterrecoil" on the part of the western oblasts, where 85-90 percent of the population goes to the polls and elects at the first attempt fierce supporters of a strengthening of Ukraine's "independence" who see Crimea's policy only as "separatism that needs to be suppressed," can be seen at the present elections in Ukraine.

In this atmosphere in the parliament of Ukraine, does Crimea not need a "first line of defense" in the form of its own deputies, who would oppose the adoption of extreme decisions?

The president of Crimea quite recently supported the Kuchma-Grinev bloc uniting antinationalist forces in Southeast Ukraine. The bloc, which assembles judicious social forces in Ukraine, is being countered by Kiev officialdom, which is why a complex situation is taking shape. And under these difficult conditions the president of Crimea in fact changes his former position and does not consider it necessary to form a cohesive group of Crimean deputies in the parliament of Ukraine reinforcing the Kuchma-Grinev bloc.

I am inclined to think that in this case the president of Crimea has occupied a mistaken position, and it was not supported at the elections: 80 percent of people voted and did not carry their ballots away with them.

The president's mistake can still be rectified at the second stage of the elections of deputies of Ukraine, activists of the Russia bloc being oriented toward support for the candidates for deputy of Ukraine—participants in the Interregional Reform Bloc (IRB)—of the Kuchma-Grinev bloc: It is the authors of the mistaken position who should be rectifying it. Otherwise the situation will get worse. The president of Crimea could, perhaps, need 23 Crimean deputies in the parliament of Ukraine more than as many additional deputies of "his" in the parliament of Crimea: It is simpler for him to sort things out at home.

I consider it necessary to point all this out not on account of a desire to "force my way into power": The prospect of participation in the gloomy squabbles of the parliament of Ukraine is not particularly inspiring.

But the truth is dearer....

Communists Threaten Opponents

944K1045A Lviv POST-INFORM in Ukrainian 1 Apr 94 p 3

["Communists Planning To Put Their Opponents Against the Wall"]

[Text] On 31 March, the Communist Party candidates for the office of deputy to the Supreme Council of Ukraine who made it to the second round of elections in Kharkiv Oblast held a press conference. Among those appearing at the conference were Anatoliy Sereda, leader of "Working Kharkiv," Anatoliy Perepylytsya, head of the "Union of Communists," and Alla Alyeksandrovska, second secretary of the oblast committee of the CPU.

The results of the first round of voting were described as a victory for the CPU, and they stated that they expected to win the elections.

Responding to a question regarding what he would do in parliament if elected, A. Sereda said that he would "be in charge of repressions and work in the Cheka." He did not specify against whom these repressions would be carried out, but a shout rang out from the audience: "The first people we will put up against the wall will be Khmara and Chornovil, then ravchuk and Plyushch, and all speculators, businessmen, and you correspondents." Following this shouted remark, most journalists left the press conference.

Ivan Latin, docent of the agricultural institute and a candidate for the office of deputy to the Supreme Council of Ukraine, answering a question from one of the few remaining journalists regarding whether repressions against businessmen would not result in increasing the number of beggars in Ukraine, replied: "The more beggars there are in Ukraine, the more communism and socialism there will be."

Belarus

Slavic Assembly To Picket U.S. Embassy

WS1204075594 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] According to the press service of the People's Movement of Belarus, the Slavic Assembly Belaya Rus is going to picket the U.S. Embassy in Minsk today. The aim of the picket is to protest the bombing of civilian sites by NATO forces in Yugoslavia. A session of the Belarusian Committee of Solidarity with Serbs and Montenegrins will be held today at the Presidium of Belarusian Academy of Sciences.

Security Council To Postpone Decision on 'Partnership'

WS1204081094 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Unattributed report: "Belarusian Security Council Held Session"]

[Text] A session of the Belarusian Security Council was held on 11 April. Conditions for Belarus possibly joining Bill Clinton's "Partnership for Peace" program were discussed. BELAPAN has learned that a final decision on the issue was not adopted. According to competent circles, there is a decision to suspend the resolution of this issue until Belarusian presidential elections are held. Participants in the session also approved a government proposal concerning urgent measures to combat corruption. An interdepartmental commission, headed by First Deputy Supreme Soviet Chairman Vyacheslav Kuznetsov, is authorized to implement this program addressing the coordination of activities between law enforcement agencies.

UN Butrus-Ghali Visit To Belarus Viewed

WS1104143994 Minsk NARODNAYA GAZETA in Belarusian 7 Apr 94 p 1

[Report by Aleh Hruzdilovich: "Butrus-Ghali: 'Chernobyl Is a Symbol of International Solidarity'"]

[Text] As expected, the second day of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's visit to Belarus was devoted to Chernobyl issues. At any rate, Chernobyl problems prevailed during his meetings with Supreme Soviet Chairman Mechyslaw Hryb, Prime Minister Vyacheslaw Kebich, and Deputy Prime Minister Ivan Kenik who is also chairman of the State Committee for Dealing with the Aftermath of Chernobyl. They were also the focus during his visit to the radiation medicine clinic in Aksakawshchyna. Mr. Butrus-Ghali has received sufficient information to fully realize the scope of the Chernobyl catastrophe aftermath. During a meeting at the Supreme Soviet, he promised his personal support for keeping Chernobyl issues alive on the UN agenda.

The results of the two-day talks held by the UN secretary general in Minsk were assessed by Foreign Minister Pyotr Krawchanka as follows: "Mr. Butrus-Ghali fully supported our two Chernobyl projects. The first one, amounting to $12 million, concerns the carrying out of permanent radiation monitoring of the Republic. The second one, whose cost can be evaluated approximately at $8 million, concerns devising a project to build a plant manufacturing organic food for children. Butrus-Ghali indicated that the UN budget has no provision for financing these projects, and proposed looking for sponsors—firms and various international funds, to which he promised all kinds of support."

Regarding other issues discussed during the talks, Pyotr Krawchanka informed that they were primarily devoted to relations between Belarus and the United Nations (great progress has been achieved in that area), as well as to the issue of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Our side confirmed its intent to fulfill the agreements on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, which were signed earlier for the period until 1995, as well as the possibility of prolonging them for a new period, or giving them a set character.

The issue of Belarus' participation in various UN peacekeeping actions was also discussed. The Belarusian side highly estimated these international efforts and expressed its support in principle for activities leading to the suppression of existing conflicts. Regarding the direct participation of Belarus in such peacekeeping actions, it was stated that these issues are under the jurisdiction of the Belarusian Supreme Soviet. Concrete proposals from the United Nations to assist Belarus with disarmament were also discussed.

During the meeting of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali with Prime Minister Kebich, issues of economic cooperation of the Republic with the international community were discussed in detail along with the difficulties facing Belarus on the path toward reforms. Later in the day, Butrus-Ghali laid a wreath at the Peramoha monument and delivered a speech at the Belarusian Academy of Sciences. This afternoon, his visit is coming to a close, but on the eve of his departure a news conference should be held, after which we will be able to give our readers more details about the results of UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali's visit to Belarus.

Hryb Views Monetary Unification Issues

LD1104210594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 11 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The chairman of parliament Mechyslaw Hryb has told voters in the regional capital Vitebsk that legislators will not ratify the treaty with Russia on the unification of monetary systems, if the government signs the document on Russian terms which implies the closure of the

National Bank of Belarus and the unification of the budgets. The speaker is convinced that the agreement must not undermine the sovereignty of his country.

He still thinks that before the treaty is signed the banknotes of the National Bank should remain the only legal tender in Belarus. He is alarmed by the fact that during the five months of waiting for the unification trade, industry and mutual settlements have frozen. Hryb said Belarus should get full clarity on the matter as soon as possible because every day of uncertainty "brings us closer to disaster."

Hryb sees the future of the country in a mixed socially-oriented economy with a sufficiently strong role of the government. In his opinion the economy can stabilize only on condition of the revival of a common production space primarily with Russia.

(INTERFAX Note: The parliament has ratified the treaty of an economic union with Russia. Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich finds it necessary to back the move by a public vote on 23 June simultaneously with the first presidential elections. During the vote the attitude of the nation to economic integration with Russia could be defined. Quoting public opinion polls the prime minister claims that the absolute majority of Belarusians support a union with Russia. In the opinion of Kebich the referendum would be an important instrument of strengthening political stability in the country. Local experts view the proposal of Kebich as an important political move by one of the strongest candidates for presidency.)

Meanwhile, Hryb has not decided whether he is going to join the race. "I must frankly admit that I am afraid of assuming such a burden because I realize the responsibility it implies," he told voters in Vitebsk. Answering the question why the constitution was approved by the parliament, not through a public vote Hryb said that a referendum is the most uncivilized way of approving the constitution because far from all citizens could express a competent opinion of the fundamental law, while the Belarusian Constitution was carefully examined by experts of all levels for two and a half years.

Moldova

Presidential Adviser Comments on Snegur-Smirnov Talks

LD1104210494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 11 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" program: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] The main purpose of a recent tete-a-tete meeting between Moldovan President Mircea Snegur and the leader of the Republic's separatist mainly Russian-speaking region of Dniester, Igor Smirnov, was "to provide conditions for negotiations on the status of the Dniester Region," said Snegur's adviser Nicolae Osmochescu. In an exclusive interview with INTERFAX, Osmochescu said the two leaders had also dealt with a set of economic and financial problems, such as reviving ties between enterprises in Moldova and Dniester and restoring destroyed communications.

Osmochescu said Snegur and Smirnov had agreed that the talks should be based on a report by a mission of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), which proposes extensive autonomy for Dniester, implying the separation of powers between central authority in Kishinyov [Chisanau] and the Dniester government, Dniester's exclusive jurisdiction over certain matters and joint jurisdiction over others.

The adviser said Snegur and Smirnov had decided that all future negotiations would be mediated by the CSCE mission and Russian representatives. They also agreed that, at the next meeting, Moldova and Dniester should be represented by delegations rather than by their two leaders and that teams of experts should be formed to draw up a package of accords, mainly an agreement on Dniester's legal status.

Smirnov congratulated Snegur on the ratification by the Moldovan Parliament of Moldova's membership in the CIS and in the Commonwealth Economic Union, Osmochescu said. IF Note: The ratification was welcomed both by Dniester and by Gagauzia, another independent-minded region in Moldova. Dniester State Secretary Valeriy Litskay told INTERFAX it made possible a new dialogue between Moldova and Dniester, and at a new level too. The leaders of Gagauzia, where the majority of the population speaks Gagauz, a Turkic language, take the same view. According to its president, Stepan Topal, Gagauzia, which unilaterally proclaimed itself a republic, has been pressing for the ratification of Moldova's membership in the CIS and its economic union for the last two years. Topal told INTERFAX he expected the policy of the Agrarian Democratic and Socialist Parties, which the last general elections brought into power, to provide a good basis for resuming Gagauz-Moldovan talks and putting it at a new level.

Osmochescu said the meeting between Snegur and Smirnov had been held in "favorable and constructive atmosphere" and had been marked by "both sides' desire to throw off the old burden of mutual resentment and base their decisions on today's reality." The meeting broke the deadlock in the talks between Moldova and Dniester, Osmochescu believes.

"Now everything depends on the level of the teams formed to draw up the package of documents. It is important that the people who are included in them should also wish to break the impasse. The delegations appointed by Dniester in the past were doing their best to obstruct the negotiations by casuistical disputes," Osmochescu said.

He said the Dniester side agreed that the teams should include new, realistically-minded politicians ready for "reasonable compromise." Provided Dniester was willing to cooperate, the talks could be completed within the next six months, Osmochescu said. "I see two alternative solutions to the problem. The first one is to pass a law on the legal status of Dniester before the Moldovan constitution is adopted. Then the law would be incorporated into the constitution. The other is to formalize a special status for Dniester in the constitution," Osmochescu said, adding that he favored the former option.

Kazakhstan

Paper Assesses Nazarbayev's Japan Visit

PM1104094794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Kazakh Debut in Japan"]

[Text] Tokyo—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan has concluded his first visit to Japan.

The results of the visit consist in a number of economic pledges undertaken by Japan: Tokyo has promised to give money for Kazakh disarmament measures ($11 million) and announced the opening of two credit lines for Kazakhstan (to a total value of $220 million in the form of yen credits), as well as the possibility of providing $70 million in the future for the development of railroads and $55 million to combat atmospheric pollution at Ekibastuz. In addition, Japan has decided to allocate funds to insure Japanese firms' trading operations in Kazakhstan (a reference, in particular, to Karaganda, where the Japanese are involved in metallurgical projects).

The list appears impressive, but the trouble is that the Japanese have given Alma-Ata [Almaty] only what they wanted to and not what Kazakhstan was asking for. Although the Kazakh president spoke hopefully of a series of contacts and talks with representatives of the business world here on a number of major economic projects in the Republic, large-scale Japanese participation in Kazakh economic affairs is perceived at present only as a remote prospect. According to statistics, last year Kazakhstan's trade with Japan amounted to a modest $37 million, and the number of projects in which real Japanese investment is involved is in single figures—three. The Kazakhstani side's appeals for investment flows to be increased met with understanding in Tokyo, but at the same time the Japanese explained to the guests that it is necessary to improve the investment climate in the Republic, improve legislation, and carry out other routine work.

Nazarbayev defined the building of economic "bridges" with Japan as the chief task of his trip. At the same time political aspects were also touched on during the talks—the situation in the CIS and in Central Asia and relations with Russia. Nazarbayev pointed out at a meeting with reporters that the origins of the present desperately complex situation in the former Soviet republics must be sought in the political mistakes made earlier—when the Belovezhskaya Forest agreements were being prepared, and during the collapse of the ruble zone. The Kazakh president mentioned this with bitterness, placing the main emphasis on the desire to maintain stability and to see the present reforms to a successful fulfillment. At the same time he emphasized that the Russian reforms' successes are important above all else. "In Russia," Nazarbayev said, "it is necessary to support the reforms and stabilization, not individual politicians. It is important for the whole world that the processes of democratization and economic transformations triumph in Russia."

Tokyo tried to establish what the leader of Kazakhstan had in mind when he advanced the concept of creating a Eurasian Union in place of the CIS. It turned out that Nazarbayev had nothing "in mind"—according to him, it was an idea which had not yet been developed and which was spoken aloud at a meeting with Moscow State University students.

Nazarbayev Urges Faster Economic Reform

944K1058A Almaty SOVETY KAZAKHSTANA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 1

[KAZTAG report: "To Sharply Accelerate Economic Reform"]

[Text] President Nursultan Nazarbayev held a conference on the issues of speeding up the implementation of economic reform in the Republic. Among the participants were Vice President Erik Asanbayev, deputy prime ministers, state advisers and other members of the government, top officials from the National Bank and the National Academy of Sciences, and high-ranking staff of the president's and the Cabinet of Ministers' apparat.

In his address at the conference, Nursultan Nazarbayev emphasized the urgent need to accelerate the corrections to the government's program of action in reforming the economy, as well as improving the organization of this work and corresponding mechanisms.

Since the time of introducing the national currency, the heads of state and the government have issued more than 200 edicts, decrees, and directives of a normative-prescriptive nature on the matters of development and intensification of economic reform. Thereby a number of serious problems of a legislative nature have been resolved, and the normative base considerably updated.

However, noted the president, a system approach and purposefulness are still lacking in the implementation of the entire complex of envisaged measures; there is insufficient coordination in the activities of ministries and government apparat offices in the preparation of normative-prescriptive documents and the organization of their implementation in practice. There are also disjointed actions between the National Bank and the Cabinet of Ministers in conducting a single strict financial-credit policy. Nor has the principal task of creating within the framework of the government and its structures an effective executive mechanism been resolved.

As a result, the process—from the moment documents are adopted to the point of their practical implementation—is stretched out impermissibly long and most normative acts are left hanging in midair. Moreover, some of them are consciously sabotaged. This is especially typical of those acts that involve changes in the administrative structure in industrial sectors. Operational decisions and measures adopted by ministries and the National Bank often are not correlated with one another or they contradict the program line.

For the purpose of streamlining this work, as well as preparing the Program of Anticrisis Measures and Economic Stabilization for 1994-95, a republic commission was set up by the president's decree in January of this year. However, it still has not completed the draft of this important document and incorporated in it existing alternative proposals, in which there are also healthy nuggets of wisdom. Such procrastination is unacceptable, and it is not accidental that it causes resentment among the economic public and in the mass media. The commission should finally determine, urgently and clearly, which parts of alternative programs may be used for the benefit of the business at hand, and what should be discarded for the lack of constructive contents, and make the results public, thus putting an end to idle talk.

Unenviable fate also befell the latest plan of government actions—for the implementation of economic policy in 1944. The control functions had been assigned to the Ministry of the Economy, which itself is not succeeding in the execution of this document. In addition, some ministries, bypassing the Ministry of the Economy, petition the government to move the time frame for the implementation of one or another part, or revise them. This cannot go on any longer, said Nursultan Nazarbayev.

In connection with the current situation, he brought up a number of cardinal proposals aimed at accelerating development of a program to intensify the reform.

The main emphasis, in the president's opinion, should be placed on increasing authority and dramatically improving the activities of executive power structures and state organs of administration. The measures necessary for this have been outlined; they are to be conducted within several areas.

The first is the legal base for the reform. The normative base with respect to main economic spheres and direction of the reform, created by the president's and government's decisions since the introduction of the national currency, should be systematically organized and evaluated to provide a sufficient base, and where additional development of normative acts is needed.

The next area is effective use of aid provided by the world community. All channels of financial aid from international organizations and foreign countries going through the government need to be merged within directions, economic sectors, and the Republic's social sphere. It is also important to work out the main principles and mechanisms of its utilization, including program support, state structures and other institutions responsible for project implementation, and the use and repayment of credits and loans received for such use.

Next, development of individual spheres of domestic economic policy. In this area it is necessary to fully evaluate the real structural transformations that have been accomplished in the national economy. Large-scale projects of national significance and ones that are ready for implementation need to be selected, and the measures of support in corresponding decisions be drafted. It is also necessary to define economic spheres and sectors that will be developing along the lines of separate programs—entrepreneurship, insurance operations, defense and other complexes—and set strict deadlines, as well as designate those responsible for the preparation of real programs.

Among other subjects mentioned were the expedience of drafting five-year plans by indicators, beginning with 1995; further support for privatization processes and holding structures, giving them greater freedom of action; facilitating development of consumer goods production; increasing the volume of processing of agricultural products; reorganizing the work of the state statistics system, which in many respects still operates in the old mode; and other current problems.

The decisive factor in achieving the goals set is good organization of the work of state organs and the entire executive apparat. This means that distribution of powers and functions between ministries and other government organs must be analyzed and revised, and as a result the responsibility for implementation of a specific area of economic policy clearly assigned to each. It appears that in this respect it will be necessary to eliminate the still-existing duplication of effort, which will require structural changes with sensible staff reductions.

Among those who participated in the subsequent exchange of opinions were First Deputy Prime Minister Akezhan Kazhegeldin, Deputy Prime Minister Zhanybek Karibzhanov, and the State Antitrust Policy Committee Chairman Petr Svoyikh. Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Kulagin reported on the progress of preparation for the spring sowing campaign.

It has been decided to complete preparation for the program for activation of implementation of the economic reform within a compressed time frame and to discuss it immediately afterwards. The president also intends to consider in the nearest future the issues associated with denationalization and privatization, adjustments to the program of social protection of the population, housing policy, and intensification of suppression of crime.

Presidential Decree on Land Rights

LD1104182694 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1215 GMT 11 Apr 94

["Decree of the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan On Further Improvement of Land Cadastre"]

[Text] [no dateline as received] On the basis of the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan on temporary delegation of additional powers to the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and heads of local administrations, in order to ensure economic regulation of land relations while effecting various transactions with the rights for life-long inherited ownership and for use of land, I decree as follows:

1. Heads of local administrations, within the scope of their authorization for allocating land plots defined by the Land Code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, will sell the right for life-long inherited ownership on land to individuals, and sell the right for use or rent of a plot of land to legal entities (with the exception of state-owned agricultural enterprises). Within the stated limits, individuals are granted the free right of life-long inherited ownership on land to run a private farm or farmstead, to grow orchards, or to build residential houses or summer cottages. If the plot of land exceeds the stated norms in area, the right for life-long inherited ownership on land can be bought from or sold by the head of local administration.

2. I confirm that individuals who have received plots of land for life-long inherited ownership can sell them, present as gifts, lease and mortgage their right for life-long inherited ownership on land to other individuals and legal entities. Legal entities, excluding state-owned agricultural enterprises, which receive plots of land for use or rent, can sell, lease, or mortgage their right for use or for rent of the plot of land to individuals and other legal entities;

Individuals and legal entities can correspondingly transfer the right for life-long inherited ownership or for use or for rent as a due paid to authorization funds of joint stock societies, partnerships, and cooperatives including foreign partners. Rights for use or lease on the following cannot be sold:

- —Land of common use such as squares, streets, motorways and roads, embankments, parks, gardens etc;
- —Land used for transport and telecommunications;
- —Lands for national, dendrological parks, botanical gardens, preserves, monuments of architecture, and nature;
- —Lands used for fitness, health, and recreation or historical and cultural purposes;
- —Lands of forest and water funds as well as land used for needs of defense.

4. The State Land Cadastre and Tenure Committee of the Republic of Kazakhstan and its local branches are responsible for determining prices and conditions of sale of the right for life-long inherited ownership , use or lease of land as well as development and confirmation of a form of agreement on sale and purchase of the right for life-long inherited ownership, use, or lease of land.

5. The Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Kazakhstan should in one month's time confirm the procedures of sale and purchase and basic price rates of this right by citizens of Kazakhstan, be it individuals or legal entities. Relevant changes and additions to the laws should be examined by the newly elected parliament of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

6. This decree has the force of law and will remain valid until relevant changes are entered in the current laws of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

7. The decree comes into force on the day of its publication.

[Signed] President Nazarbayev. Almaty, 5 April 1994.

Land Official Comments

LD1104194394 Almaty KAZTAG in Russian 1215 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] [no dateline as received] Bakyt Ospanov, chairman of the State Committee for Land Cadastre and Tenure, comments as follows on the presidential decree on improvement of land cadastre:

Land is Kazakhstan is only owned by the government, but when people sell their individual houses or gardens, they virtually sell the land on which these gardens or buildings are located. The government is losing a lot of money thereby as it does not participate in these transactions. This new decree gives us a simple solution that does not affect the constitutional legal basis. In accordance with this decree, heads of local administrations do not sell the land which belongs to the state, but sell the right for using this land during one's life time and for leaving it to be used by one's heirs. In other words, ownership on land is separated from ownership on life-long inherited right for using this land. This means that land relations are included in the market turnover, thus creating conditions for accumulation of additional mortgage means on banking accounts. The government becomes the main regulator of land relations and receives profit in the form of dues from these transactions.

Nazarbayev Issues Edict on Residential Housing Rights

LD1204092894 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Text] In order to ensure citizens' rights to housing and on the basis of the law of the Republic of Kazakhstan "On temporary delegation of additional powers to the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and heads of local administrations," the president of the Republic of Kazakhstan issued an edict "On ensuring citizens' right to housing."

In conformity with the housing code of the Republic of Kazakhstan, residential areas in buildings are a component of the residential fund and include dormitories, hotels, shelters, houses of the flexible fund, retirement homes for lonely and elderly people, invalids, and veterans. For those residing in dormitories and hostels, taking into consideration the number of people in the family, a residential housing unit consisting of two or more rooms excluding a kitchen, hallways, and other auxiliary rooms, can be allotted. When privatizing objects, which include residential homes and areas, of the state and departmental fund, the conditions and purpose of using the abovementioned objects are preserved and the rights of citizens for housing envisioned by the Republic's law are guaranteed. The full text of the edict will be published in the press.

Opposition To Promote Building 'a Democratic Society'

PM1204104594 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Tleuzhan Yesilbayev: "Kazakhstan: Opposition Has Come to Life"]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—Parties, public movements, and associations in opposition to the policies of the president and government of Kazakhstan have formed a coordinating council in Alma-Ata. It includes representatives of the "People's Congress of Kazakhstan" party, the Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Democratic Committee on Human Rights, the workers movement, and other organizations. The coordinating council is headed by S. Abdildin, former chairman of the Republic's Supreme Council. According to what he said at a news conference, the constructive opposition will promote the building of a democratic society through its deputies' faction in Kazakhstan's new parliament.

Kyrgyzstan

United States To Deliver 100 Tons of Grain to Bishkek

LD1204094494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0905 GMT 12 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Maynayev]

[Text] Bishkek 12 April, TASS—The American Government is providing humanitarian aid to Kyrgyzstan. One hundred thousand tons of food grain will be shipped to Bishkek during May and June of 1994, the Kyrgyz Government's press service reported on Tuesday. This amounts to about one-third of all grain consumed in the Republic at present.

President on Need To Strengthen All Levels of Government

LD1104210894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1826 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] In Kyrgyzstan President Askar Akayev has spoken of the need to strengthen all levels of government in the country. He said the deepening of economic reforms is the prime concern of the authorities. He spoke on Monday at a closed session of the cabinet attended by the heads of local administrations.

The presidential press secretary Iman Rysaliyev told INTERFAX that the president pointed to the need for strengthening the akimat—community of heads of local administrations. He also stressed that the current decline in production should not be linked to a crisis in government structures. He said that despite the difficulties in economic restructuring certain achievements have been gained primarily in monetary policy. Last month inflation dropped to a 5-percent level and prices stabilized. The main task is to reorganize the economy so that it would operate to 90 percent on local raw materials.

The president also spoke for stopping all political rhetoric concerning gold and gold mines. He thinks the government should take steps in the nearest future so that foreign companies, in particular from Canada and the United States, would finally begin gold mining in Kyrgyzstan.

Tajikistan

Talks Continue in Moscow; Agenda Studied

LD1004125994 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 0030 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Text] The inter-Tajik talks to stabilize the situation in Tajikistan are continuing in Moscow. This was told to a correspondent of the Khovar news agency by Rahim Hasanov, a spokesman of the Tajik Embassy in Russia, yesterday. On the second and third days of the talks, the sides continued the discussion of the agenda with the mediation of Ramiro Piriz-Ballon, the UN secretary general's special envoy. The issues related to achievement of a cease-fire and stopping the acts of provocation on the Tajik-Afghan border were entered on the agenda by proposals of the Tajik Government delegation.

Shukurjon Zuhurov, the head of the Tajik Government delegation, proposed that a joint declaration to put an end to hostilities, especially on the Tajik-Afghan border, be adopted in the course of talks as a top priority task. Issues related to repatriation of refugees, disarming illegal bands, and involving all citizens of Tajikistan—in particular those citizens living outside the territories of the Republic—in discussion of a draft of a new constitution, are among the issues raised by the sides.

The sides are going to thoroughly study each point of the agenda. Today, the sides are going to consult with experts. The representatives of the United Nations, the Foreign Ministries of Russia, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan, and the representatives of the Embassies of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan are attending the talks as observers.

Homes of High-Ranking Officials Fired Upon

LD1104121994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1125 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 11 April, TASS—An unknown gunman opened submachine-gun fire on Monday at a multistorey apartment house in Navoy street in downtown Dushanbe where high-ranking government official of Tajikistan live. One of the bullets hit the balcony of the apartment of Rashid Olimov, the foreign minister. Nobody was wounded. Aliyev is currently on a trip to Moscow. Police refused to say whether the attack was of a political or criminal character.

Frontier Guards Skirmish With Afghan 'Commandos'

LD1104161394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1320 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 11 April, TASS—On Monday morning Russian frontierguards stopped three attempts at illegal crossing from Afghanistan to Tajikistan of militants of the Tajik opposition on the Pamirs stretch of the border.

At around 1030 local time a small groups of commandos tried to cross to Tajikistan at Ishkashim stretch. There was a skirmish. One border violator was detained. Two fled back. Two more attempts to cross into Tajikistan were made in the section of the Khorog frontierguards unit around 1000 and at noon. Russian frontierguards opened preventive fire, and violators returned to Afghanistan.

The situation on other sections of the border was difficult, but it was kept under control, ITAR-TASS learned in the headquarters of Russian Frontier Troops in Tajikistan.

New 'People's Party' Announces 'Strategic Goal'

LD1104162194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0949 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 11 April, TASS—The People's Party of Tajikistan, a new socio-political organisation, would like to actively assist the process of political, economic, and religious renewal of the Tajik society.

The party's rules and programme were published in Sunday's newspapers. The programme's strategic goal was named as being "the union of all Tajikistan citizens, regardless of their nationality, native language, political beliefs, and professional and ethno-cultural orientation, for the sake of building a law-based, democratic, secular state."

Further, the programme called for Tajikistan's "active participation in a civilized transition to a market economy with the maintenance of state-provided education, health care, cultural programmes, social security for the underprivileged, and other social programmes."

In their statements, the party's founders do not try to hide their desire to come to power by nominating their representatives to posts in state and governmental structures and by receiving a majority of deputy mandates in the new parliament. However, they categorically condemn any attempts to achieve such goals through violence.

At the same time, note independent observers, the new party does not need to win power, since the idea of organising the new political structure originated in the highest governmental structures themselves. Chairman of the new party's organisational committee is First Deputy Chairman of Tajikistan's Supreme Soviet Abdumadzhi Dostyev.

The social make-up of the new party is likewise easy to foresee. Many heads of local councils and administrations, as well as a majority of the Republic's industrial managers' corps, have already declared their intention of joining the new party.

New Party's Political Priorities

LD0804210894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1828 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] The leader of the Tajikistan's Political and Economic Renovation Party (TPERP), Mukhtor Bobokhonov, told the party's first official news conference in Dushanbe Friday that no opposition to the government was acceptable in Tajikistan at the moment. "It may cause an allergic reaction among the people," he was quoted as saying. At present, the TPERP is the first officially registered party in Tajikistan since January 1993 when all political parties and movements, except for the Communists, were banned.

According to Bobokhonov, the TPERP basically encompassed young entrepreneurs, scientists and economists. The party's main goal is to promote the economic revival of Tajikistan and the establishment of peace in the republic. To achieve this goal, the new party will cooperate with all social and political forces of the Republic, Bobokhonov said. Asked about the party's economic program, Bobokhonov said its top priority was to create a nongovernment pension fund to protect all layers of society. He hoped the Tajik leadership would support this initiative. Commenting on the presence of Russian troops in Tajikistan, Bobokhonov said it was necessary at the moment to guarantee peace and security in the region.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Bans Russian Bank Notes

LD1104185994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov has withdrawn Russian banknotes from circulation and banned their acceptance as payment as of 15 April. The decree he signed on Monday aims at better money circulation and greater purchasing power of the sum-coupon, the national currency. In the meantime, anyone, regardless of what he or she owns, will be able to sell goods or provide services for hard currency, provided they have cash registers.

As of 15 April, the exchange rate of the sum-coupon to foreign currencies will be fixed at the end of regular republican currency auctions. So far, this rate has been modelled on data from Russia's Central Bank.

In line with the decree, a chain of currency exchanges will be set up across the Republic, and individuals will be allowed to trade money by a central bank license.

All enterprises, private and state-owned alike, will have to sell to the Central Bank 30 percent of their currency revenues, of which 10 percent must be purchased by the Finance Ministry for the Republic's monetary fund and 5 percent by the government of Karakalpakia (an autonomy within Uzbekistan) and by regional administrations for their local monetary funds.

As of 1 May, accounts with enterprises in former USSR republics will be settled exclusively on a clearing basis or in hard currency. Currently in Tashkent one ruble trades to 10-11 sum-coupons and one dollar to 20,000-22,000 sum-coupons.

Armenia

Azeris Said 'Deliberately' Using Force

NC1104122594 Yerevan SNARK in English 0803 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Stepanakert, April 10 (SNARK)—Today at dawn Azerbaijani units, supported by a large number of tanks and other military hardware, went over offensive. The offensive was assumed in the north part of Karabakh front in the direction of Tonashen settlement (Mardakertskiy region). SNARK was informed of this in the Karabakh Defence Army Headquarters.

Before the attack the Karabakh Forces defending that part of the confrontation line had been shelled.

At 10 a.m. hard fights took place here. The Karabakh Defence army units manage to repel the massed attacks of the Azerbaijani units.

The Karabakh leaders are of the opinion that the official Baku is deliberately increasing tension in the conflict zone just before the summit talks being prepared by the Russian Foreign Affairs Ministry, and a new meeting of CSCE Minsk group, which starts today in Prague. Baku still relies on force methods, once again defying the World Community, which makes efforts to settle the problem by peaceful means.

Attacks, Air Raids Reported

NC1104145994 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The day's important news item is that the situation is again exceedingly aggravated in the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR]. We have not yet received further details to add to the report already transmitted by my colleagues. For those who have not heard our previous newscast, let me say that according to the press service of NKR Defense Army headquarters, the Azerbaijani Army launched a large attack in the north of NKR's Mardakertskiy Rayon yesterday. The large aggressive action was launched on the eve of the upcoming high-level talks on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict. Those talks were prepared by the Russian Foreign Ministry. The attack came a day before the opening of the CSCE Minsk Group talks on Nagorno-Karabakh in Prague today.

The Azerbaijani Air Force subjected NKR's peaceful cities and villages to massive air strikes yesterday. Three residents were killed and nine were injured only during the bombing of Stepanakert's residential quarters. Most of the victims are women and children. A number of residential buildings in the city were destroyed. There are victims in the NKR's other settlements, which also came under air attack.

The Azerbaijani warplanes tried to launch air strikes against civilian objects today. In the meantime, battles are continuing in the northern sector of the front where the Karabakh forces are halting the enemy's attacks.

The NKR leadership believes that in exacerbating the situation on the Armenian-Azerbaijan conflict zone, Baku is as usual relying on brute force and is again challenging the international community which is exerting efforts for the peaceful settlement of the conflict. They reported from Stepanakert that because of the air strikes classes were canceled in educational institutions.

As regards the situation on Armenia's borders, the Defense Ministry press service reported at 1600 that a relative calm has prevailed since last night.

Parliament Seeks To Condemn Air Raids

NC1204115394 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Statement by the Armenian Republic Supreme Council; place and date not given—read by announcer]

[Text] Having violated the airspace of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] on 10 April 1994, the Azerbaijani Republic's Air Force then bombed a number of NKR communities far from the fronts, including the capital Stepanakert. The main target of the attack was the crowded market, where there was an enormous amount of destruction and many casualties, mostly women and children.

Regrettably, the international community has not yet paid appropriate attention to the policy of bombing peaceful communities that the Azerbaijanis have followed since 1992, which has given the Azerbaijani authorities free rein to continue such operations with impunity.

By such savage operations, Azerbaijan is reiterating that it has not foregone its policy of state terrorism against the people of the NKR, the aim of which is to annihilate the civilian population in gross violation of international law, particularly the Geneva Convention. This policy is designed to expand the conflict and undermine the recently instituted peace initiatives.

The Armenian Republic's Supreme Council declares that the Azerbaijani side will bear full responsibility for any such operations. It calls on the UN secretary general, the CSCE, the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, the Europarliament, and the parliaments of the world to strongly condemn these military operations against civilians and to take effective and urgent measures as envisaged by international law to prevent the further bombing of communities and to end the unacceptable behavior by the Azerbaijani Republic.

Premier, Parties Debate Economic Reform

944K1038A Yerevan GOLOS ARMENII in Russian 5 Apr 94 pp 1-2

[Article by Shamiram Agabekyan: "Armenia on the Threshold of Voucherization. Prime Minister Bagratyan Predicts Our Fate"]

[Text] As has already been reported, participating in the discussions in the office of the Ramkavar-Azatakan of Armenia Party were not only representatives of sociopolitical organizations, members of parliament, and specialists, but also Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Grant Bagratyan.

As for the political forces represented in the discussion, all of them were, to put it mildly, extremely skeptical both of the reforms and of their authors and supporters. This is apparently why the discussion amounted to only conceptual criticism. Thus in the view of the Agrarian-Democratic Party, the economic transformations are lacking an ideological concept, they do not have a social base, and the do not go beyond solving purely technical problems (Mels Mkrtchyan). And the Constitutional Law Union thinks that the theory of Jeffrey Sachs, a professor at Harvard University in the United States, is being deliberately transplanted to Armenian soil. But our shock therapy is also being carried out with local peculiarities: Instead of obedience to the law on property, we have a proliferation of clans usurping spheres of the economy. Instead of the idea of forming a national bourgeoisie proclaimed by the government, we have primitive polarization of society.

In the view of the representative of the Ramkavar-Azatakan of Armenia Party, Gagik Galstyan, it is wrong to speak of the establishment of a market economy in Armenia because a transition to private property does not mean the establishment of the market. Different principles are required: In particular, competition and the corresponding pricing system, which we do not have, but still there has been a dispersion of resources, leakage of capital and cadres...

Leonid Akonyan, representative of the Communist Party of Armenia, thought that for some reason the organizers and implementers of the reform equate destatization with privatization, while reforming the economy of the former GDR in Germany lasted for 10 years, and hundreds of billions of marks were allotted for these purposes. Such speedy and random privatization, in L. Akonyan's view, is merely a repetition of [word illegible] experience of voucher reforms, and that is all.

While advising acceleration of privatization as a whole, quite a few critical remarks were directed against the government by a member of the Union of Merchants, Manuk Gasparyan. I think there will be an opportunity to return to his speech in one of the next few issues of GOLOS ARMENII, but now I shall discuss the speech of Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia Grant Bagratyan—helmsman of the Armenian version of the reforms and a passionate champion of them.

Grant Bagratyan, while recognizing that dozens of mistakes have been made during the process of reforming the economy, still sees the overall trend as positive. The prime minister did not deny the possibility of mistakes in the future because this is not a repeated process but one-time actions, and actions that affect the interests of the socium, which break down its customary way of life. The government perceives this as a natural pattern.

Whether slowly or quickly, privatization will take place—the government sees as its main task making sure that this process is controllable. For a random and uncontrolled outcome caused by too much haste specifically in industry will lead to the appearance of a mass deprivatization war. With such a turn of events not only Armenia but any other state would fail to hold up on the financial or social, or moral, or political plane.

Incidentally, this could be avoided if the labor collectives were certain that the changes that were made corresponded completely to the spirit and letter of the law. Well, what about the law itself? In Bagratyan's view, the legal vacuum is broad. To this day we have not defined what property is and what property is considered to be. To this day we have no law on citizenship, on deposits, on bankruptcy, we have not determined the status of public and private joint-stock companies, we have not decided the fate of productions operating at a loss.... With the reality being like this, property will be distributed and rights will be granted without determining responsibilities.

As the prime minister stated, privatization is not an end in itself but the creation of a field for effective activity. And the elimination of state property is the only means. As corroboration for what he said he gave this example: When the government was analyzing budget incomes and expenditures it became clear that each year 1,700,000 tonnes of garbage are taken from the capital alone. And only 10 percent of the cost is paid from local funds and the rest comes from the budget. But this quantity of garbage does not physically exist.

The prime minister was referring to the fact that the parliament absolutely does not take into account these government services—maneuvering and balancing with state property under conditions of free prices. So during the discussion of the budget, with whose professional level Grant Bagratyan was extremely dissatisfied, they did not even raise the question of how, for example, the construction of a building is financed or how the cost of the shipment of that same garbage is determined...

As the prime minister said, when creating a state it is necessary on the move to turn over the layers of a whole epoch. A pedantic, bureaucratized government could reject the process of privatization altogether, claiming, if nothing else, that it does not know to whom it should distribute the certificates. Incidentally, there are many "buts" of this kind.

Even with successful privatization of 80 percent of the enterprises, the distribution of the limited centralized resources will be extremely problematic because of the lack of a mechanism for this. Take just electric energy and water... On the one hand it is necessary to proceed from the effectiveness of the output. But we must not cast privatized enterprises to the caprice of fate. Just because, say, Armelektromash is privatized this does not mean that its problems are automatically solved, and at least the supply of metal must be regulated at the state level, that is, through the efforts of the government.

With all this, measures are also being taken to render assistance to privatized enterprises. Thus a club of entrepreneurs is being created and it will have the opportunity to meet regularly with the government in order to solve problems jointly.

Grant Bagratyan included purely organizational problems in another group of measures. Within two or three weeks the republic will receive all kinds of vouchers. At the same time the tax and customs services are being technically re-equipped, which, in particular, will help to avoid negative occurrences in the customs system. It will also be necessary to revise the structure for administration of the economy.

In general and on the whole the prime minister considers it realistic to begin the privatization of small facilities in May and enterprises in June, and also to complete some of the unpaid privatization by the beginning of September.

The prime minister did not deny that there have been and will continue to be omissions here because it is not at all easy to draw up a list of 15,000 facilities... But he assures us that the plan that has been chosen, the alternatives, and also the laws that have been adopted will create better conditions in Armenia than are found in Russia. In April of last year the "Armenian" version was discussed in the Hague with the participation of the World Bank, and it gained approval. This has to do with privatization of enterprises under the conditions of the notorious 20 percent. This has to do also with the fact that the "Armenian" version to a certain degree precludes the sad Russian experience when, for example, the president of a joint stock company, deciding to earn $2 million, sends the company's funds abroad.

The unpreparedness of the corps of directors causes the prime minister to have misgivings. Nor do we have the corresponding socium, which would bring pressure to bear on the leaders of the joint-stock companies, forcing them to function effectively. In the prime minister's view, no ideology, even the very best, can provide for development of minds—this takes time. And he is afraid that this time will also provide more occasion for criticism, and it cannot be ruled out that there will be political blackmail of the government as well.

But Grant Bagratyan, following Chubays' example, intends to say nothing since he is confident that he is carrying out a mission of historic significance and he must not stray from the path, for under conditions of free prices the state sector of the economy can be controlled only by political methods which, as he stated, will be manifested in one way or another.

And difficulties are inevitable when establishing a market: Some enterprises will stay afloat and others will not. Even today it is possible to tell which productions and organizations will "stay afloat" and which will not, because from many signs it is already obvious who has behaved how under the conditions of free prices and the transition to the market. The Institute of Physics provides an extremely clear example. Having found a practical application for its accelerator, the institute received an order for $2 million. Other institutes have shown that they have been marking time all these years and merely reproducing outdated developments. Of course they are doomed.

There is the fear that everything will be attributed to privatization. Moreover, against this background it is possible that there will be a large wave of antiprivatization, for everything that today is concealed from people's eyes by the so-called state status will come to the surface. Then it will be possible to see who is good and who is bad, who is able to work and who is not, who is stealing, who is trading, and who is speculating.

There is also the danger of the appearance of the so-called "Vietnam syndrome." After the end of a military confrontation several tens of thousands of people may make claims against the society: We were in the trenches and you were dividing up the property. We must keep an eye out for a solution to this problem as well. And not only on the ideological but also on the material plane. In any case the property owner must be prepared for a year or two or more to compensate, to pay for the costs of those who are in the mountains today, who have been wounded, who have become disabled...

The problem of the diaspora is not the least of the prime minister's concerns. It should not have its property rights encroached upon, and division into "akhtsarov" and natives must not be allowed. But the diaspora will have to make its way through moral and psychological discrimination and overcome a multitude of other obstacles.

In other words society is faced with a harsh but necessary transformation through which it must pass. And the more quickly—the less painfully. This is why with the distribution of vouchers the government will insist parliament allow them to be bought and sold, for from now on it will be simply dangerous to adopt half-way decisions.

Incidentally, with the establishment of the market, in the view of the prime minister, political passions will abate. And civil accord will be established because the new economic force will require stability, laws, and concrete actions.

Privatization will also have a favorable effect on the formation of the financial market and the stabilization of the exchange rate of the dram because a new, convertible commodity will be put into circulation: the property of productions—be it territory, machine tools, equipment...

Being in the best initial positions for privatization and having the best production potential, the republic, in Bagratyan's view, will soon establish itself in the region as completely successful. But under the condition that the natural course of economic transformations will not be hampered by powerful artificial factors in the form of escalation of the confrontation with Azerbaijan, etc.

...Oh, those buts! Were it not for all of them, and not only in the form of external factors, the future would look bright ahead, would it not? Alas, against the background of the current reality it is possible at least to say: Oh, it is hard to believe!...

Controversy on Draft Prompts Sargisyan Comments

NC1104205494 Yerevan SNARK in English 1521 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Yerevan, April 11 (SNARK)—Today Vazgen Sargisyan, the Armenian State Minister on Defense, speaking in the parliament session-hall called two deputies Ashot Bleyan and David Vardanyan traitors. These deputies come out against forced ways of drafting reservists for three-month assembly.

Mr. Sargisyan said after the session's end "these traitors must be first to be drafted", while some deputies demanded to stop arbitrariness and violence of rights in the course of organizing military assemblies.

Speaking at the parliament session, Mr.Sargisyan said that all who deviate from the draft will be strictly punished. He said "We arrest and will arrest them either in the streets or in the markets or in the parliament".

Progress, Problems in Creating Army Viewed

PM1204094194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 9 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Bablumyan: "Armenians in Uniform Were Sought All Over the CIS"]

[Text] Yerevan—Soldiers and officers of Armenia's Armed Forces have quite a short time left in which to wear out the uniform of the former Soviet Army—until next fall. However, the replacement of one uniform by another is by no means the hardest stage on the way to creating a national army. Particularly when it is being formed under conditions of an undeclared war and a solid transport blockade which is paralyzing practically all industry in the republic.

"If we could have established a lull on the border with Azerbaijan, even for about eight months, but still better for a year, we would already have at our disposal the army that we need," Major General Mkrtich Abramyan, Armenian deputy minister of defense, maintains.

The republic's Ministry of Defense maintains that Armenian officers in the former Soviet Army were surpassed in numbers only by Russians, Ukrainians, and Belarusians. Armenians in uniform—from lieutenants to colonels—were sought throughout the territory of the former Union, but by no means all were attracted by service in a republic experiencing the incredible difficulties of a blockade. No more than 5-7 percent of Armenian officers responded to the call to continue their service in Armenia—which, of course, could not resolve the cadre problem. Then it was necessary to appeal to officers who had been transferred to the reserve five, 10 or even 15 years ago.

Armenia needs its own military school, maybe more than one. But there are no instructors. Unwise steps in respect of Armenia's Russian-speaking population have caused a considerable number of experienced military instructors at Yerevan's higher educational institutions to leave the republic. Thus, just six of the 30 officers who were working recently in the military department of the capital's Polytechnical Institute are left. The Defense Ministry has sent a certain number of students to study in Russian and Belarusian military schools, but this is very costly.

Another equally important problem is being resolved with considerably more success than the process of forming the officer corps—the problem of drafting people for active service. The last draft, which was completed last fall, was 105 percent fulfilled.

Gen. Abramyan resolutely refuses to regard Azerbaijan as a possible enemy, since Yerevan has not had and does not have any territorial claims on Baku. As regards neighboring Turkey, the warming of the international situation and also the ongoing process of rapprochement between military blocs provide no grounds for treating this NATO member country as a military enemy either, Mkrtich Abramyan believes.

"The skies over Yerevan, as well as Armenia's entire airspace, incidentally, are reliably protected by air defense facilities. We can see an aerial enemy from afar and are capable of hitting him at any altitude," I was told at the Defense Ministry.

Combat operations have been going on for approximately two years now all along the perimeter of the land border with Azerbaijan. Many Armenian officers are amassing knowledge and experience on company, battalion, and regiment exercises being conducted by Russian Army subunits stationed in Armenia. Since all the combat and technical facilities in Armenia's arsenal were inherited from the former Soviet Union, Russian military specialists are teaching their colleagues how to competently store, repair, and operate complex combat hardware.

Apart from the arms handed over to the republic by the command of the former Soviet Army, Armenia does not purchase or acquire anything else.

Independent Russian-Language Paper Launched

NC1204055794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1229 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Stepakanert, April 11 (SNARK)—An independent Russian-language paper "NAGORNY KARABAKH" began publishing in Karabakh. Its first issue cited the declaration of Arkadiy Gukasyan, Karabakh foreign minister: "Karabakh is now independent defacto and nobody can deny this fact".

Marsel Petrosyan, founder and commercial director of the paper, told SNARK the main readers of the paper will be those Armenians in the CIS, who would like to be aware of the real events in their mother land. The circulation of the paper is 5,000 copies.

It is planned to publish "NAGORNY KARABAKH" in English too.

Azerbaijan

Three Killed in Azeri Air Strike on Stepanakert

LD1104115494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1046 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Three people were killed and nine wounded as a result of an Azerbaijani bomb attack on Karabakh's capital of Stepanakert on April 10, the press service of the Karabakh Defense Army told Interfax. Three bombs hit the center of the city. A woman and her two children—a 7-year-old boy and 12-year-old girl—were killed. Many buildings were ruined.

On the same day, bombs were dropped on other populated areas of Nagorno Karabakh. The number of casualties is being verified. The air-raid warning was sounded seven times in Stepanakert on April 11, but no bomb attacks were carried out by Azerbaijani forces. Informed sources in Stepanakert report that bombs might have been dropped on other populated areas. According to the press service, fierce fighting has continued for two days now in the north of Karabakh's Mardakert Region, where the Azerbijani forces launched a large-scale offensive on April 10.

Meanwhile, a source in the Azerbaijani Defense Ministry reports that Armenian formations tried to launch an attack yesterday in the southern section of the front, in the Fizuli Region and on the border with Azerbijan's Beilagan Region. Baku says the attack was checked and Armenian units were forced back to their initial positions.

Attacks in North Continue

LD1104161694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1428 GMT 11 Apr 94

[By ARMENPRESS correspondent Garriy Galustyan for TASS]

[Text] Yerevan April 11 TASS—The situation in Nagorno-Karabakh has once again worsened. Starting this morning Azeri Air Force planes have attempted attacks on civilian. [as received] Classes in educational institutions in Stenpanakert have been suspended. According to reports received by ARMENPRESS from the Nagorno-Karabakh army defence headquarters, fighting continues in the northern sector of the front and the Mardakert area. Karabakh forces are reported to be repulsing enemy attacks.

The Nagorno-Karabkah leadership holds the view that by inflaming the situation in the Karabakh-Azeri confrontation zone, Baku is once again using brute force and challenging the international community, which is making efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict. The Azeri Army is engaging in large-scale offensives on the eve of forthcoming high-level peace talks for which the Russian Foreign Ministry is making preparations, and on the eve of the next regular meeting of the conference on security and cooperation in Europe (CSCE) Minsk group on Nagorno-Karabakh, which is opening in Prague today.

Further Details

NC1104182494 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 11 Apr 94

["Defense Ministry report for 11 April 1994"—read by announcer]

[Text] Taking advantage of the peace prevailing for some time now, the Armenian armed formations resumed their extensive offensive in the north of Karabakh. As always, the enemy again used the talks on a temporary cease-fire to revive its spent forces, and by misleading the international community it greatly strengthened its troops for a new round of offensives.

Employing some 2,000 troops and armored cars, the Armenians launched an attack against Gulistan in Geranboyskiy [Shaumyanovskiy] Rayon and Talish [in northeast of Mardakertskiy Rayon] yesterday morning. The enemy temporarily gained the initiative in certain places during the battles.

Following a fierce artillery barrage today, the Armenian infantry troops launched an attack against our army's positions along the Terter-Agdam line at 0630. According to reports, the battles are continuing. The border settlements in our republic's Tauzskiy and Kazakhskiy Rayons came under artillery shelling today from the military bases in the Armenian Republic.

Aliyev Visits Front Areas, Meets Local Leaders

NC1104202594 Baku TURAN in English 1710 GMT 11 April 94

[Text] Baku (April 11) TURAN—Over the week-end President Aliyev visited Imishli, Beylagan and Barda regions of the republic. The goal of the trip was to gain an up-to-date understanding of the present situation of refugees and the over-all social and economic situation in those regions. During the visit, President Aliyev met with commanders of units located in those front regions.

Towards the end of the visit he has with local regional heads, law enforcement bodies and military personnel the town of Beylagan which is the regional center of the region with the same name. During meeting President Aliyev said that all levels of leadership should coordinate their efforts in dealing with the refugees' problems. He mentioned that the front regions are the primary grape and cotton producing regions in Azerbaijan. President Aliyev said that the presence of refugees in the region must not be used as an excuse for the fall in production.

To Meet Shevardnadze

LD1104193794 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1635 GMT 11 Apr 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: Compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] President Geydar Aliyev who continued Monday an inspection trip to the zone of the Karabakh conflict, said meeting with the commanders of the republic's armed forces, that he was sure that Azerbaijan was able to defend itself with its own forces, without relying on the assistance from the outside.

The president said he was interested in the "peaceful outcome of the war, unleashed by Armenia". He said that "the liberation of the occupied lands is the sacred duty for each soldier". IF Note: The visit by Geydar Aliyev to the frontline zone started last Sunday. According to a spokesman for the defense army of Nagorno-Karabakh the day was marked by the intensification of the offensive by the Azeri Army in the zone of conflict. The spokesman said that Azeri air raids against the capital of the self-proclaimed republic, Stepanakert, three persons were killed and nine wounded [sentence as received]. A source in the Azeri Defense Ministry said that yesterday Armenian units attempted to attack at the southern part of the front in the Fizuli and Beilagan areas of Azerbaijan. Reports from Baku say that the offensive was stopped and the Armenians retreated to the initial positions.

Baku observers say that Aliyev's schedule indicates that the Azeri leadership does not stake exclusively on the military solution of the problem. It is expected the subject of the political settlement of conflicts in the region will be one of the central ones during the visit of the Azeri leader to Tbilisi scheduled for Tuesday. The agenda of the talks between Aliyev and Eduard Shevardnadze is expected to include the forthcoming Moscow summit of the CIS leaders on April 15. It is likely that in discussing the problem of a regional safety different versions of the implementation of the CIS collective security treaty may be under discussion. Earlier, Aliyev spoke much about the document's inefficiency within the context of the continuing hostilities in the zone of the Karabakh conflict which provided grounds for speculation on the republic's possible withdrawal from the CIS.

A reliable source in the president's administration called those suppositions groundless. He said that Baku intended shortly to urge that the CIS mechanism for curbing external and internal aggressors be put into action.

Possibility of Russian Military Bases Examined

NC1104203194 Baku TURAN in English 1710 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Baku (April 11) TURAN—"Nobody can force us to agree on the locating of foreign military bases on the territory of the republic if it [the placement of bases] is not in the interest of Azerbaijan", said Azerbaijan's Defense Minister, Mamedrafi Mamedov.

Mamedov opposes the placement of Russian border troops on the Azerbaijani-Iranian and Azerbaijani-Turkish frontier. "Azerbaijan can protect its own southern borders without external help", said the Defense Minister.

Earlier, Russian Defense Minister, Pavel Grachev, said that Russia intends to place one military base on Azeri territory Azerbaijan and representatives of Russian military commandants have repeatedly stated that they are interested in deploying Russian border troops in the southern region of Azerbaijan. Sources in the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs told Turan that Moscow is dissatisfied with Azerbaijan's refusal. A Russian diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, told a Turan correspondent that "if Baku refuses, relations between Russia and Azerbaijan will worsen. This will cause serious economic difficulties in Azerbaijan that will lead to further dissatisfaction among the population".

Georgia

Shevardnadze: Air Strikes 'Serious Warning'

LD1204130394 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1133 GMT 12 Apr 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Albert Kochetkov]

[Text] Tbilisi, 12 Apr—Eduard Shevardnadze told the Georgian Information Agency today that NATO air strikes against Serb positions in Bosnia, "especially when backed by the undertakings and peacemaking efforts of the international community, are a serious warning to militant nationalism and separatism." He said, however, that it was necessary "to observe the tradition of holding political consultations in such cases, especially when it concerns UN Security Council member states.

Shevardnadze on Domestic, Foreign Policies

LD1104140494 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0605 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Regular weekly studio interview with Georgian State Council chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by journalist Nato Oniani—live]

[Text] [Oniani] Batono Eduard, the past week was rather busy. A quadripartite agreement on the return of refugees and displaced people and a declaration on the measures to settle the Abkhaz- Georgian conflict peacefully reached in Moscow have become the subject of parliamentary discussions. You have already voiced your stance on these documents but I still want to ask you: Do you think the internationalization of the conflict has produced any positive effect? And what effect could have been expected had the documents been denounced in the parliament?

[Shevardnadze] Only now can we speak about a real internationalization of the settlement and general handling of the conflict. Before this, everything was at the level of resolutions, as it were. However, resolutions passed by the UN Security Council, statements made in various states and the like comprise a very significant stage leading to the present situation. Favorable conditions have come about for international forces to be involved in settlement of the conflict. Russia's political role, mentioned repeatedly by the Russian leadership and the president, has become more clearcut. Our friends have embarked on more active work—I mean the United States, France, England, the FRG, and the CSCE, which is also involved in the issue.

Negotiations will begin in Geneva tomorrow on the deployment of international forces in Abkhazia. The first round of talks about the return of refugees ended in Sochi yesterday. A special commission has been established in connection with these issues. A meeting will be held on the 19th. A very important meeting will also be held in Geneva on the 19th which will be mainly dedicated to a discussion of various aspects of Abkhazia's political status. Thus, a long-expected process has started. And it started relatively smoothly.

I would like to single out two issues again and again for everyone's attention and especially for the attention of our brothers, our friends, sisters and mothers—I mean the Abkhazian refugees. The principal aim and task we have assigned ourselves during the process of negotiations is the return of refugees to their homes. The return must be secure and honorable, which will only be when they are met there by joint international forces who will have been given adequate rights by the United Nations.

I cannot avoid repeating that it is regrettable that some politicians demonstrate not simply critical or even negative attitudes, which are acceptable, but an unexplained aggressiveness toward the changes for the better and I would say even resentment and fury toward a tendency which has more or less shaped as a reassuring one of late. They seem to be putting up obstacles against their own country and their own people. This cannot provoke a resentful reaction in me. I just want to read out, to understand the reasons for such conduct.

I believe that a power struggle is behind all this. This is also understandable. But in times of present difficulties hardly ever experienced by a rich country, we all should think of consent and unity and seek ways of overcoming this most difficult test for the state and ways of easing the movement toward peace and stability, unity and the restoration of territorial integrity.

I believe that these outbursts in the parliament and elsewhere are temporary. Everything depends on how the events will develop at negotiations and various meetings and, eventually, what decision will be taken by the Security Council. If all this develops in a positive way, and decisions are taken in conformity with our government's requirements, it will die away of its own accord and we all will forget it.

[Oniani] Batono Eduard, you have requested the parliament to discuss two issues referring to the demands by the opposition. One was an issue of the denunciation of the above documents and the other was an issue of vote of confidence in the authorities. The opposition has withdrawn the demand. Will you raise the question of confidence again, say at tomorrow's sitting or later? And how justified do you consider raising this issue taking into consideration the current complicated critical situation?

[Shevardnadze] The issue of denunciation was raised but, I would say, they lacked the courage to defend their position because they were not confident in their correctness and the logic of their activities. This position appeared to be mostly a pose, I could say a lie or they were probably securing their position. In case what has been decided and planned does not come true, they will say: Look, we have been warning you about all that.

That is why I really wanted this issue to be raised and voting on the issue to be put on the agenda. And the history would retain the names of who was for and who was against. This has not happened and I do not worry about it any more. At least, the parliament did not share an opinion about the denunciation of the agreement and practically consented to what we had agreed on in Moscow. As for the vote of confidence, I have stated that after the Cabinet of Ministers is established we will have to return and consider this issue. Regrettably, the Cabinet of Ministers has not been confirmed yet.

I have already expressed my stance about the parliament's failure to endorse the minister of education. I have expressed my opinion about Mr Tamaz Kvachantiradze and a certain sorrow. The session will probably be resumed tomorrow and I do hope that the issue of establishing the government will be settled in a few days.

As regards to the next stage, of expressing confidence in the authorities and the head of state, definite regulations exist in motions for a no-confidence vote. The opposition can take a motion by getting over 50 votes. Fifty-one votes are required to get the issue on the agenda. If the opposition fails to get those or does not dare do this, I will find another way to have the parliament and the people discuss the issue. The discussion will lead to a decision. Because an end should be put to a situation when the authorities or the name of the head of state or a figure of any other rank are constantly sullied; there should be an end to talks about something anti-national, anti-state, unjustified, criminal, and various other things which are commonplace in parliament. This must be finished one way or another.

If the state is governed by criminal elements or by inept or rather incapable people, and I know who is usually meant and this does not require deciphering, we cannot simplify it or shut our eyes to it or plug our ears or swallow it just like that. That would demonstrate recklessness and incompetence. Neither the head of state, not the parliament nor the people can adapt to this. If it is close to the truth, a healing mechanism must be found. Either remaining or quitting. But whichever it is should be deserved.

[Oniani] Batono Eduard, I would like to return to the Abkhazian issue. Some politicians say that you went to the United States to request the deployment of NATO troops in Georgia. How do you view the assumption that a head of state goes to the United States with a proposition like that? How true is this?

[Shevardnadze] I would like to say one thing as regards to the deployment of U.S. troops or NATO troops and so on. Political debates are essential. Nothing can be done without them if we want the truth to be achieved. However, generally, we have to exclude illegal holds, as sportsmen say, or rather lies and arbitrary handling of lies and rumors in politics. A lot of lies are said and then the person who is to answer has no time and opportunity first to study all these lies and then to expose them.

For instance, here is a lie that Shevardnadze requested the United States to deploy their armed forces and his request was refused. In fact, this would be a failure. If you asked something and it was the sole purpose of your visit and it was turned down, that would be a failure. This was said just like that, as if in the course of a conversation. I

telephoned the television center and asked them to broadcast a reminder that I had not made a request like that while in the United States. I requested support for taking a decision on the deployment of peace-keeping forces and financing this action, because this is one of the most difficult and serious problems. [words indistinct]

A Western newspaper allegedly said that Shevardnadze' request was turned down. If it is true, if you really read something like this, please do us a favor and name the source, the newspaper, the article, and the author who offered a version like this. This is an elementary rule. It is an elementary rule to cite a person, an author, a work which you are quoting. This just said that Shevardnadze was turned down and nothing happened.

Luckily, I had the television on and I heard this. Otherwise, there would have been no reaction and the idea would have gained a hold that the head of state went on a visit without having studied the issue well in advance and his request was turned down. I am talking of only one example. This is a false idea wrapped in rags, which has nothing to do with the truth. Then they demand that you prove something that cannot be proved. However, they speak so convincingly that inexperienced people find it difficult not to believe.

We have to learn this culture of discussions, arguments, and political debates. There should always be commitments during discussions. Without commitments the opposition will not be able to gain the stand and image to which it aspires. I really want to have an opposition, an opposition which can seriously argue with the majority or the authorities or whoever. But using correct arguments. If we all learn this we will have a real opposition.

As regards to troop deployment, we have two variants. One is being discussed at the moment. This is the deployment of international peace-keeping forces. It is not easy but outlines of a decision can already been seen. Or the other hand, there could be a completely Russian contingent. This will be easier to implement. Easier, because both President Yeltsin and I have given our consent to this in principle.

[Oniani] But not under the UN flag, only Russians ...

[Shevardnadze, interrupting] Certainly, only under the UN flag. And they support this idea. However, at the present stage, the issue of international troops is being discussed. These forces will include a certain number of Russian troops. They may comprise 20 percent or 30 percent maybe. I do not think it matters much. A few countries have applied to the United Nations expressing readiness to participate in the peace-keeping mission. I do not know how sufficient this will be. This must be elucidated.

[Oniani] We have to point out, Batono Eduard, that we speak of peace-keeping forces rather than the deployment of NATO troops in Georgia.

[Shevardnadze] Indeed. Perhaps some time later, when we sign certain documents and start cooperation with NATO, this issue will be topical. But I do hope we will need neither NATO troops nor Russian troops. However, NATO forces could take a definite part in our [word indistinct]

[Oniani] Soon a summit of the CIS countries will be held in Moscow. What can our country expect from this meeting regarding two problems most acute for us, I mean Abkhazia and our economy?

[Shevardnadze] I will not elaborate on this issue. In the coming two days I will probably speak to our listeners and TV viewers. At present, work is being done on documents sent by various countries. We have our opinion. A definition of a frame for economic cooperation will be the main issue under discussion. A scale and conditions for this will also be discussed. It is natural that issues of conflicts will be considered, as well. As I have said, a serious work is being done in all the ministries, agencies and the Cabinet of Ministers and soon I will be able to share my opinion with the listeners and TV viewers.

[Oniani] Batono Eduard, recent operations by the Interior Ministry, Defense Ministry, and Security Ministry have produced certain changes for the better. These are the first effects and maybe they cannot be well noticed by the population. We are coming closer to the establishment of order such as exists in our neighbour, Azerbaijan.

Last week, railway cars were blown up in Sadakhlo. On 9 April a device was exploded on the premises of the SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA newspaper. Facts like these have accumulated.

[Shevardnadze] Everyone will obviously agree with me that order has improved a little. This is probably a result of a better implementation of a decree on this issue by the law-enforcement bodies. [words indistinct]. Now, the law-enforcement bodies have to turn their whole attention to revealing the crimes. Criminal cases like the explosion in Sadakhlo or the explosion in the SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA building must not be closed without investigation. I would like to voice my great hopes that the law-enforcement bodies will work efficiently on these cases.

In any case, the trend toward general improvement can be seen and all efforts should be directed toward establishing law and order in the country. These are real prospects today rather than those of the future. We have begun our work in this direction and will lead it to a conclusion.

[Oniani] Finally, five years have passed since the tragic day of 9 April. The 16th anniversary of the events that took place on 14 April 1978 will be marked this week. One is considered a day of national unity and the other is considered a day of the Georgian language. April seems to be eventful.

[Shevardnadze] I have a request in this connection. Any anniversary related to a sorrowful event is used by one part of the population only with one aim, I mean, not to allow the country to calm down, to have instability continued and to press the authorities to resign, as it was demanded on 9 April. Such a mood cannot receive a positive assessment. I sometimes wonder what these people want. Do they want good for the country and its unity or destruction? [passage indistinct].

In this connection I would like to say that they will fail because Georgia is not and will never be what it used to be. The people will not follow dark forces and no one will take them to the dark and the mire.

Abkhazian Scouts Killed in Latest Fighting

LD1104122094 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1000 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 11 Apr—The IBERIA news agency has received a Georgian Defense Ministry press center report which says that fighting continued in the north of the Dali Gorge until this morning. A five-man team of Abkhazian scouts was wiped out. No casualties on the Georgian side have been reported.

Abkhazia Leader on Peacekeeping Issues

LD1104162694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0955 GMT 11 Apr 94

[by ITAr-TASS correspondent Irina Shchogoleva]

[Text] Sochi April 11 TASS—"First the United Nations Security Council must adopt a resolution on the introduction of the peacekeeping force to the area along the line of confrontation between the Georgian and Abkhazian forces on the Inguri river, and only after the peacekeepers are stationed, the refugees can begin to return," said First Deputy Chairman of Abkhazia's Council of Ministers Leonid Likerbaya.

He was commenting in an interview with ITAR-TASS on the statement of the quadrilateral commission for the return of refugees and displaced persons to Abkhazia, which was signed in Sochi on April 9.

"We must make people understand that the process will be long. It may take several years," said Lakerbaya. He expressed confidence that it would do no good to try and artificially accelerate the process, which could only provoke new clashes and a new exacerbation of the situation. More, it is not ruled out that the introduction of peacekeeping forces can extend in time, leaving all decisions of the return of refugees "suspended in midair".

"There is no need to out the cart before the horse. Let documents be prepared thoroughly, so that they are fully ready by the time the U.N. Security Council passes the required resolution", Leonid Lakerbaya said.

Talks with Abkhazia To Continue in Geneva 12 Apr

LD1104190994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1556 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The Georgian-Abkhazian talks on settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia will continue in Geneva on April 12, the press center of the Abkhazian Representative Office in Moscow told INTERFAX. The talks will focus on utilization of peacekeeping forces for maintenance of peace in Abkhazia. UN and Russian representatives will also take part in the talks. The Abkhazian side will be represented by Deputy Chairman of the Abkhazian parliament, Stanislav Lakoba, and Defense Minister, Sultan Sosnaliyev. The press center of the Georgian Embassy in Moscow said the Georgian party would, among others, be represented by Chairman of the Interim Committee on State of Emergency in Georgia, Jaba Ioseliani, and Shevardnadze's Aide, Levan Aleksidze.

Envoy Expresses 'Irritation' at Russian Role

PM1204113694 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 3

[Report by Aleksey Aleksandrov: "Moscow As Guarantor of Stability in the Caucasus, or Why People at the Georgian Embassy Prefer a Swiss Bottle Opener to a Russian One"]

[Text] At last! That is the only way to react to the signing in Moscow of two agreements between Georgia and Abkhazia which have inspired hope, on both banks of the Inguri, of a long-awaited peace.

Eduard Bruner [name as transliterated], personal representative of the UN secretary general, particularly stressed the peacemaking efforts by Russian diplomacy, as a result of which a major step has been taken toward peace in an explosive region of the Caucasus.

A press conference was held on this topic at the Georgian Embassy in Moscow. The significance of the event was confirmed by the number of journalists, who virtually filled the conference hall at No. 6, Paliashvili.

Aleksandr Kavsadze, personal representative of the Georgian head of state and leader of Georgia's official delegation to the talks, noted at the press conference that the success of the Moscow meeting was determined largely by Sukhumi's flexible stance, and also by a compromise and a series of concessions by Tbilisi.

He stressed that the agreement on the return of refugees to Abkhazia is an amnesty for those who did fight but have laid down their arms and promised not to take them up again. However, according to Aleksandr Kavsadze, it does not apply to those who committed atrocities or acts of robbery and looting, or to those who are today entertaining plans to resume hostilities.

The view was also expressed at the press conference at the Georgian Embassy that those people—in both Georgia and Abkhazia—who are responsible for kindling a fratricidal civil war and who have profited by this dirty business, should suffer the criminal punishment they deserve.

The remarks at the press conference by Vakhtang Rcheuleshvili, vice speaker of the Georgian Supreme Council, struck me as original, to put it mildly. After demonstrating from the stage his unsuccessfull attempts to open a bottle of Borzhomi [Georgian mineral water] with a Russian bottle opener, he then, with one graceful movement, opened the bottle with a similar, but Swiss-made, tool. That is how it is at the talks, the vice speaker observed with irritation. And then he explained: All the agreements between Georgia and Abkhazia where Russia was present at the signing as intermediary, led to no positive results—on the contrary, they culminated in bloody armed actions and military defeat for the Georgian side. But the participation of Swiss citizen Eduard Bruner, the UN secretary general's personal representative, in the Moscow talks produced, he said, the long-awaited success. To be fair, it must be noted that Mr. Rcheuleshvili, on failing to observe a rapturous reaction to this nice little "joke" among the Russian and foreign journalists present, did say, in conclusion, that the Georgian side is grateful to Russia for the attainment of the agreements....

Thank you for that. We are long accustomed to see Russia's successful peace initiatives received with irritation outside Russia's borders. The recent success for Russian diplomacy in the Balkans is the most graphic illustration of this. Although it should be noted that not a word was said aloud about this. The artistic performance with the Borzhomi at No. 6, Paliashvili, and the unequivocal remarks by the vice speaker of the Georgian Supreme Council prompt the thought that some people in Tbilisi would prefer to see Western representatives at the talks in the role of peacemaker, rather than Russia. Here it must be noted that the opposition in the Georgian Supreme Council, according to recent reports from Tbilisi, greeted the signing of the peace agreements in a generally hostile fashion.

Being a peacemaker is certainly a thankless task: When two people are fighting, they are never happy with a third. However, I would like to point out to Mr. Rcheuleshvili that if aliens from another planet were to appear at the negotiating table in the role of intermediaries, even they could not act as unshakable guarantors of peace in the Caucasus. It all depends primarily on the two warring parties and their true desire to reach an agreement and a peace.

On the same day I met with Sergey Bagapsh, first deputy chairman of the Abkhaz Council of Ministers. He expressed satisfaction with the results of the Moscow talks and stressed the beneficial influence of Russian diplomacy in arriving at the two Georgian-Abkhaz agreements that have been signed. Without Russia's participation the CSCE and UN representatives could not have achieved this important task, he concluded.

For my part, let me note that I did not notice a Swiss bottle opener in the hands of the first vice premier of Abkhazia. Nor, incidentally, a bottle of Georgian Borzhomi.

Pessimism About Abkhazian Peace Prospects

PM1104153594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 Apr 94 p 4

[Article by Besik Urigashvili: "Expectations for Summer Vacation Season in Abkhazia Somewhat Premature Even in Light of Diplomatic Victories"]

[Text] Tbilisi—The outbreak of optimistic forecasts brought about by the signing of the Georgian-Abkhazian agreements should not overshadow the real obstacles in the way of finally settling the conflict. Boris Pastukhov, personal representative of Russia's president and deputy foreign minister, believes that there may be a repeat of the Abkhazian tragedy unless resolute actions are taken by Russia and the United Nations. Other equally important elements should be considered in the current alignment of forces.

Despite the start of the summer vacation season in Abkhazia, which has been widely advertised by the mass media, every sensible person realizes that there will be no season. And the statement that sunworshippers on the beach at Pitsunda and tour buses on the road to Lake Ritsa will be protected by riflemen is simply laughable if, of course, you forget how much blood and tragedy is behind all this.

However, you cannot forget. Nor do the agreements that have been signed bring oblivion either. Whereas you can somehow understand naive working people nostalgic for the sunshine of Gagra, you cannot understand those who call themselves politicians.

Country Cornered

A different—gloomy and cheerless—picture arises behind the glossy advertising mirage. Even a cursory analysis of the situation provides convincing evidence that a fresh bloodbath is inevitable if the peacemaking process breaks down once and for all (once again, you cannot forget that the agreements on Abkhazia have been wrecked six times).

Following Georgian leader Shevardnadze's recent visit to New York, where the Security Council, having given him a sympathetic hearing, effectively then refused to carry out a peacekeeping operation under its auspices in Abkhazia, the bulk of the Georgian public, primarily refugees from there, questioned the head of state's foreign policy course and his efforts to settle the conflict peacefully.

There is drama behind Shevardnadze's reserved response to the new agreements. "Unless we unravel the Abkhazian knot, our country has no future," that is the opinion of Nodar Natadze, Shevardnadze's political adversary, extremely radical leader of the Georgian People's Front, and a parliamentary deputy, an opinion shared by virtually all Georgian politicians and public figures today regardless of their views.

"The point is not only that Georgia has lost a considerable part of its age-old territory and living space," Givi Lominadze, former Abkhazian minister of internal affairs and now chairman of the Committee for the State of Emergency in Western Georgia, said. "If the Abkhazian problem is not settled, I have difficulty picturing a solution not only to the political but also primarily to the economic crisis. After all, the most convenient and virtually the only rail and road routes linking Georgia and Russia, routes that are crucial and vitally important, pass through Abkhazia. Everyone has now forgotten that it was the threat to these routes, a noose around Georgia's neck, that made it necessary to take emergency measures to protect them in August 1992. Separatist leaders in Abkhazia and their patrons in Russia used this as an excuse for war. Now that control of the routes has been lost we are threatened with being totally cut off."

According to statistics, the average wage in Georgia is around 20 U.S. cents. Notwithstanding what are virtually world prices for essentials, barring bread. The birth rate is falling disastrously. All industry is virtually at a standstill. People spent the whole of last winter without heat and light. The crime rate is still threateningly high. And as a result in the last six months alone, according to various estimates, between 500,000 and 800,000 people, over one-third of them ethnic Georgians, moreover, have left the country. Some 99 percent of the emigres, regardless of ethnic origin, are not leaving the country on political grounds.

Mafia clans are infiltrating top state spheres. According to Igor Georgadze, head of the Georgian security service, the drugs mafia has stepped up its activity of late.

"We have information from which it emerges that Georgia is already one of the main transit routes for the international drugs mafia. Drugs going West via Georgia mainly come from Azerbaijan, Central Asia, and the North Caucasus. Severe pressure from local clans, which often operate via structures of authority, and, paradoxically enough, the conflict in Abkhazia, which diverts our best forces, are preventing us from effectively resisting this. Deprived of firm foundations the authorities are sometimes forced to close their eyes to the human detritus in their corridors where incompetence goes hand in hand with unscrupulousness."

On the Other Side of the Inguri River

The way is barred to your correspondent. However, the way is not barred to information crossing the Inguri River via informal communications channels, the press, and eyewitnesses who disagree with the Gudauta regime.

The simple formula of "the Abkhazian people's great victory over the Georgian aggressor" prevails in the mass consciousness there today, acting as an ideological foundation for mass purges and the deportation of the Georgian people. However, the euphoria of victory is giving way increasingly noticeably to a sobering up process. North Caucasus "volunteers" are demanding payment—homes, apartments, plots of land. Their demands are being bolstered by weapons. Banditry, robbery, and looting—the accompaniments of "victory"—are keeping pace with the exacerbating struggle for power between family and mafia structures.

Winning the war and relying on powerful allies outside Abkhazia enable Vladislav Ardzinba to take a politically radical and uncompromising approach. However, his Abkhazian opponents believe that this policy is fatal for the Abkhazian people.

One of them, who once held a fairly high position in the Abkhazian political establishment, told me:

"He is bound to realize that this is a Pyrrhic victory but, being a charismatic leader, he is continuing to sail on the tide of events. However, in the course of the war the Abkhazians have already lost over one-third of their gene pool. A people numbering just 80,000 is threatened with physical degeneration. Moreover it is clear that Georgia will never put up with the loss of Abkhazia."

In the opinion of my interlocutor, a crucial factor in the Abkhazian military success is the domestic political situation in Russia and in Georgia itself at the time the conflict started.

"Were it not for Gamsakhurdia and Russia's equivocal policy, I don't know how it all would have ended," he said.

Nevertheless Ardzinba still has firm support—the enemy image in the shape of Georgia completely holds sway in the mass consciousness. However, Abkhazia's leaders, perfectly well aware of the danger they are in, are trying to take preventive security measures. This is illustrated by the escalation of military operations in Abkhazia's Svanetia at the end of March.

This operation, which Abkhazian sources themselves admit was planned in advance, was allegedly aimed against Georgian subversive groups. However, it is well known that the current Abkhazian leadership is holding talks with regard to driving a six-kilometer road tunnel to directly link Abkhazia and the North Caucasus. With its commissioning Abkhazia would obtain a direct outlet to the North Caucasus bypassing Krasnodar Kray. One small point is causing problems however: This route lies through villages in the Kodorskoye Gorge where the Svanetians live and which are controlled by their people's militia.

After the agreement was signed 4 April, these people communicated the following from their positions: "Are we now outlawed then? Are we, the defenders of our own homes and villages, not entitled to live in our own homeland?"—these questions in one form or another are being asked by virtually all refugees, most of whom have taken part in the fighting and very many of whom have died.

Another War?

Imagine a crowd of thousands of refugees among whom amputees predominate. Shaking their arm stumps they are yelling: "We have all fought! Fought for our land! Who is not allowing us to go home?" In the opinion of these people, and you cannot help but take it into account, the agreements signed in Moscow do not resolve the problem of a peace settlement in Abkhazia. And the vaguer the prospects of such a settlement, the stronger the militarist sentiments. The most radical section of the refugees from Abkhazia has formed the Abkhazian Liberation Union. Its leader Boris Kakubava believes:

"Neither the United Nations nor Russia nor the Lord are helping us. I do not know of a single case of territory being returned by means of talks. We have one option—to get our homes back with weapons in hand."

Needless to say, by no means everyone hews to such radical positions, but there is tremendous skepticism regarding the chance of resolving the problem through talks. And although the most farsighted politicians are still banking on Russia, the following view does prevail: Until the political squabbling in Russia has subsided, one should not expect salvation. Ultimately, many people think that the Abkhazian problem will be resolved as Russia wants.

A great deal was done in Moscow to ensure that talks resumed between the Georgians and Abkhazians. "Some kind of progress at least" has been made thanks to Russia's efforts. Staggering progress in terms of the negotiating table. But it looks extremely shaky in the eyes of yesterday's shepherds and tea growers, unwilling war veterans, whose road home is barred today.

Shevardnadze 'Live Dialogue' Interview

LD1004231294 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1120 GMT 10 Apr 94

[Studio interview with Eduard Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state, chaired by Andrey Skryabin; from the "Live Dialogue" program; Shevardnadze participates from the Tbilisi studio—live]

[Excerpts] [Skryabin] Good day, esteemed television viewers, today's TV hook-up in the Live Dialogue program links Tbilisi with the Ostankino studio. Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, Georgian head of state, is there in the Georgian capital. Good day, Eduard Amvrosiyevich!

[Shevardnadze] Good day!

[Skryabin] Taking part in our program today are Lyudmila Telen, MOSKOVSKIYE NOVOSTI observer, and Givi Bakradze, Georgian television journalist, and I am Andrey Skryabin, Ostankino television observer. [passage omitted)

Permit me again to welcome Eduard Amvrosiyevich Shevardnadze, the head of state of the Republic of Georgia, and—can you hear us, Tbilisi? It seems that we do not yet have communication with Tbilisi. [passage omitted]

[Bakradze, speaking from Tbilisi studio] Andrey Georgiyevich!

[Skryabin] Yes, I am here.

[Bakradze] We have had some problems with the sound. We are now informed that it is ready for use.

[Skryabin] Let us then get started immediately. In the six months that have elapsed since the time of our last meeting, Eduard Amvrosiyevich, there have been many changes. If you please, what is your assessment of the political and socio-economic situation in Georgia?

[Shevardnadze] Thank you very much. My greetings to you, Andrey Georgiyevich and Lyudmila Olegovna. We are already old partners. The political situation at the present stage in Georgia is complex, but since our last meeting I can confirm that it has to some extent been improving. At least the main threat that the country was facing, the threat of an unleashing of civil war—and in effect we were on the verge of civil war—has been removed. It is now possible to speak of some healthy trends in political life and a certain consolidation of Georgian society. It is possible to speak of some positive trends, including an improvement in the crime situation. There are also some other encouraging trends. However, as far as the economy is concerned—and it impossible to divorce the economy from politics—the economy remains in a state of profound crisis. We have had a severe winter and have remained in effect at a minimum level of fuel and energy resources. Industrial enterprises and agricultural organizations have not in effect been functioning. For this reason the social situation of people is very burdensome and in this respect it is possible to speak about great social tension, although despite the hunger, so to speak, and the cold, people are nevertheless showing understanding regarding the problems now being faced by our country.

[Skryabin] Thank you very much. Let us have your question, Givi.

[Bakradze] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, as far as I see it, my counterparts in Moscow are mostly interested in politics. I would say that we in Georgia are also interested in the economy. Recently we had strikes by rail workers and metro drivers. They were brought about, let us be frank, by the calamitous situation of people. It is at the present time practically impossible to buy anything with coupons. Other sections of the population, including the budget- funded workers, are in a similar position. Could you tell us, please, whether the state and the republic's leadership are planning any measures of social protection in the near future?

[Shevardnadze] One can speak of some measures, inconsiderable ones at ths stage, since the resources of the state are exhausted. It is true that an almost total devaluation of the coupon has taken place. Unfortunately, when we introduced these coupons, we stated at the time that it was a forced measure and that there was no other solution. In effect we had not through our own wish left the rouble zone. This was, so to speak, at the start of last year. Therefore one obviously cannot at present speak seriously about a sharp improvement in living standards. Therefore in respect these strikes by the rail workers and metro workers and in respect of the discussion in metallurgical labor collectives of the possible calling of a strike, I think that one cannot solve problems by striking. When we explain all this to the people, I must say that people are showing understanding and are starting to realize what the present-day state can provide and what it cannot.

Therefore, literally two or three days after our contacts with the railway and subway workers, the strikers went back to work and that enterprise is now operational.

[Skryabin] Thank you. Over to you.

[Telen] Mr. Shevardnadze, unfortunately we haven't had any communication with Tbilisi yet. Andrey Skryabin and I have spoken a lot about an understanding being signed recently on settling conflicts between Abkhazia and Georgia with the participation of Russia and the UN. This is really one of the most acute themes concerning people, not just in Georgia but in Russia and other CIS republics. In a Russian television interview you said that this was the result—I'm not quoting it exactly of course, but the sense of it was this—that this was the result of concessions both by the Abkhaz and Georgian sides. Tell me, please, where do the limits of possible concessions, and of compromises generally lie, for it is known, your political opponents have accused you already of making unilateral concessions to the Abkhaz side?

[Shevardnadze] There have been many reproaches and accusations. The debates in the parliament of Georgia during which literally all the theses and clauses of the agreement reached in Moscow were discussed were rather stormy. But we must be realists and, in the end, the members of parliament came to understand that there was no other solution. There are two ways of resolving the issue: either a military solution, which is unacceptable to us, to the Abkhaz people, and to the world community—if you want to put things in a wider context, and for Russia, too, that would be the most undesirable option; but there is also the peaceful way—it is difficult, complex, but the only true and right path. It seems to me that the understanding, the documents which were signed in Moscow, meet the interests of both sides, both the Abkhaz and the Georgian side to a certain extent. It's true that it's not ideal—from the point of view of Georgia's state interests—but one must bear in mind that it is just the first stage of a solution, a peaceful solution with the involvement, the mediation of Russia, the United Nations Organization and practically all members of the Security Council. It seems to me that if we, all those participating in that process of reconciliation continue to display enough will and persistence, then in the end, one will be able to speak of the establishment of peace in Abkhazia and in Georgia as a whole.

[Skryabin] Thank you. Eduard Amvrosiyevich, I have already received a large number of questions from television viewers. [passage omitted on towns and cities from which questions have come in] The gist of these questions is connected with quite a specific thing - connected with the Georgian-Abkhaz documents which were adopted - questions such as: Who will decide who can return? The present leadership of Abkhazia? A quadripartite commission? Who will decide this question?

[Shevardnadze] This is a key question of the settlement. I have to say that after these documents were signed in Moscow, a commission sat yesterday... [pauses] the day before yesterday... [pauses] no yesterday, on the problems of the return of refugees to Sochi, and an understanding was reached in principle that a special commission would be set up in which the parties to the conflict would participate—the Georgian side; the Abkhaz side; and naturally, the Council of Europe commission; the Russian side; the United Nations Organization, in particular the Commission on Refugees will also participate, so—the CSCE, representatives of the CSCE will be present as observers—so that this quadripartite commission should draw up and determine the terms for an unconditional, safe and dignified return of the refugees.

There are some restrictions on a small number of people - we will probably work that out together—but the main bulk should return. So, this commission now exists, and yesterday, the day before yesterday it set about real work.

[Telen] Mr. Shevardnadze, these documents mention peacekeeping forces to be used in settling the conflict. Could you tell us whether this means the use of the Russian contingent alone, or is it possible that other countries will be involved?

[Shevardnadze] There are various options. So far, at this stage, we've been discussing the question of using international peacekeeping forces. This means representatives from various countries' armed forces, naturally including Russia. What the proportion will be, whether the Russians will constitute 20, 30, or 50 percent, will probably be determined at a sitting of the Security Council. We would like Russia to participate very actively and, as it were, impressively in the peace process, with the necessary involvement of its armed forces, just as it participated in the talks. [passage omitted]

[Bakradze] I'd like to ask about the sorest point. Do you think, Eduard Amvrosiyevich, that it will be possible to restore a demographic status quo ante in Abkhazia?

[Shevardnadze] Well, it's probably hard to say right now. But when we said that the commission, the Security Council, the peacekeeping forces and naturally Russia too have to ensure safe and dignified return of the bulk of the refugees, naturally this meant that the demographic situation has to be restored.

[Bakradze] But isn't it the case that newcomers, fighters, mercenaries, are now living in the homes of the refugees? What will they do? Will they stay or will they go? After all, it's crucial.

[Shevardnadze] Well, I think that after all there aren't that many of them. At least the Abkhaz leadership has issued repeated statements to the effect that there are relatively few of them. That's the first point. The second point is that the documents we signed with Russia, both in Moscow and in Sochi—we actually signed documents of that nature three times—in principle they are still valid. Russia undertook certain responsibility to ensure that the fighters and those who had settled unlawfully would help both Abkhazia and Georgia, in the sense that they have to be driven out of Abkhazia. [passage omitted]

[Shevardnadze] This quadrilateral commission, which is to deal with the problems of the return of the refugees, will discuss all those specific problems. At present it is very hard to say what the decision will be regarding a particular family and a particular flat. But all these problems have to be resolved in the work of this commission.

[Telen] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, during our last "Live Dialogue" we discussed plans for a federal structure in Georgia, and we recalled that a draft constitution was being prepared. At the time you said it was too early to speak about a federal structure in Georgia, but the issue would be resolved in the process of drafting the constitution and in the subsequent nationwide referendum on this draft. I remember that you said then the text of the draft would be ready by December. Could you tell us how things stand now? Is the text of the constitution ready, or have some problems arisen that prevent it from being brought to a stage when it is ready in a preliminary form?

[Shevardnadze] In principle, as far as the draft constitution is concerned, the constitutional commission has prepared such a draft. But we are at present in no hurry to submit it to be examined in parliament, let alone to a referendum. This is because in the framework of the peace process—I mean with regard to Abkhaz settlement, and there are also problems with the Tskhinvali zone, I mean the former South Ossetia region—appropriate formats for conducting talks have been defined.

In particular, a special meeting of the working group will be held in Geneva on 19 April to deal with problems related to Abkhazia's political status, that is, this problem has been internationalized, too, in fact. The same process is likely to cover the problems of the Tskhinvali zone, the former South Ossetian autonomous oblast. So in my view it would not be very sensible to rush things now with adopting the constitution. The political status ought to be defined, in principle; I have in mind Abkhazian autonomy, or maybe there will be a different name for it, and only then should a comprehensive decision be adopted on the constitution, on the state and territorial structure of the Georgian State. [passage omitted]

[Skryabin] I have a question, too. I have here a document, a statement on measures for political settlement to the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. Its Clause 6 says: Abkhazia has its own constitution and legislation and appropriate state symbols - an anthem, a coat of arms, and a flag. I wonder, it does not mention anywhere that Abkhazia is part of Georgia. Could it be that this wording in the statement lays down a future independent sovereign state of Abkhazia with the same rights as Georgia, as it were. Do you understand the question?

[Shevardnadze] Yes I do. I have been asked similar questions in the parliament and in public discussions of the document more than once. It should be borne in mind that this is an initial stage of political settlement, so all problems and issues, naturally, could not be included in the document. The most important thing here was to attain a certain degree of progress at the talks. Our delegations have agreed to put off the problems which are causing controversy and on which we have not yet come to full understanding; they will be discussed at the next stage. As regards our idea of Abkhazia's political status, I said at a meeting of the Security Council that the Georgian leadership and our state on the whole is prepared to solve this problem in accordance with the highest international and European standards. Maybe it will be an autonomy or have another name.

In essence, I stress, we will solve this problem and we will do all we can to resolve the problem, taking into account the most up-to-date European and international requirements. As regards territorial integrity, we did not insist now that Abkhazia is a part of the Georgian state, we did not insist on including this clause, this provision because, naturally, we imply that Abkhazia is a constituent part of the Georgian state. One should keep in mind that all the document which we signed in Moscow with Abkhazia's participation and in Sochi and the six or even seven resolutions by the Security Council which have been adopted recently state that Abkhazia is an integral part of the Georgian state.

I believe therefore that at the current stage there was no pressing need to stress this once again. We imply that there can be no other decision.

[Skryabin] Esteemed colleagues, if you don't mind, I think that the topic of Abkhazia has been pretty much exhausted. Let's move on to the topic of Russian-Georgian relations. In this respect I want to ask Eduard Amvrosiyevich what, in real terms, has changed in these relations since the signing of the major interstate treaty?

[Shevardnadze] At present it is probably difficult to speak of real changes inasmuch as not so much time has passed since the signing. What has changed is that the treaties have in fact been signed. That's the main thing, and at present we are not speaking of stagnation in our relations as it were. We are speaking of it being necessary to renew and to revive all that was best as it were and the traditions in the sphere of the economy, politics, culture, science and so on, in all spheres, which we built over the decades and centuries.

To be more specific, in principles such talks are already being conducted at governmental level. Many interim understandings, as it were, have been prepared, interim treaties and agreements in part of the economy by sector. Naturally we won't get an immediate return so to speak, but the main thing is that the contractual and legal basis already exists for the development of our relations, and for the construction of new relations between the two states, and that we have commenced practical work.

[Skryabin] It may be said that gradually the work ...

[Shevardnadze, interrupting] Work, gradual work is under way.

[Telen] Mr. Shevardnadze, I would like to return to the step taken by Georgia in joining the CIS. Several months have elapsed since that time. Tell us please, has this step justified the hopes, or do you have any dissatisfaction with Georgia's position in the CIS, and in general with the cooperation between republics within the framework of the CIS.

[Shevardnadze] Perhaps I will rephrase your question. It would probably be correct to put the question this way: are the hopes which we had, as it were, being justified? I think yes.

But if we have not immediately received a return, then I have to say that there really is a certain disappointment among the people, when people are in need, when people are starving so to speak, and much else, and naturally they want there to be a quick effect. So far we have not had such an effect, but one has to bear in mind that this very unification, the commonwealth itself, is not yet so firm, I would even say stable.

So we all, members of this commonwealth, have to make efforts to make it more effective - and for it influence the situation in all the states which joined this commonwealth more effectively and at a faster pace.

[Telen] And one further question directly linked with this. What is your attitude to the initiative of Nursultan Nazarbayev on creating a union of Eurasian states?

[Shevardnadze] You know, I am aware of many initiatives by President Nazarbayev. I was in Kazakhstan and we held very interesting and substantive talks. This was several months ago, and Nursultan Abishevich never mentioned this idea in principle.

I think that this is a very interesting idea which deserves attention. But at present it is on the level of an idea, and for this reason it is difficult to answer immediately as it were, without serious discussion, inasmuch as the idea in itself is progressive and interesting - the formation of a new Eurasian economic or even monetary space as it were and so on - all this is very promising. But for me to give a specific answer to these questions I think that dialogue is necessary, and a meeting is necessary with the author of this proposal and with other colleagues who are currently members of the Commonwealth if Independent States.

[Skryabin] Many thanks. Eduard Amvrosiyevich, may I ask another question which is perhaps not easy for you. Here it is. In your country, Georgia, the opposition consider you to be a person of a pro-Russian bent. In our country, in Russia, a certain section of Russian people feel that you are a person of a nationalist bent. Tell me, what sort of person do you consider yourself?

[Shevardnadze] Let me just add, in Russia many think I am pro-Western or something of that kind. I have always wanted to be a politician thinking in realistic terms. I want, and it is my dream, to build good, friendly, new relations with the great Russia. I have always looked for friends both in the West or in the East - a small country cannot exist otherwise; and the same is even more true of a leader of a small country such as Georgia. We must look for friends - look for them and find them all over the world. And naturally, we must seek them first and foremost among our close neighbors, we must seek friends in Russia and in other states. [passage omitted]

[Bakradze] Eduard Amvrosiyevich, during your visit to the United States you included in your itinerary a meeting with Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma of the Russian parliament. Was this a chance meeting or does this to a certain extent reflect your position with regard to the Russian parliament?

[Shevardnadze] You know, it was both accidental and deliberate - because Ivan Petrovich Rybkin was in Washington. It was at his initiative and he thought it necessary to have a meeting with me. I was very glad to speak to him because this conversation took place in an extremely constructive and warm atmosphere. I think we built quite a good foundation for cooperation between our parliaments. I had not known him before and he produced a very good and pleasant impression on me. This is the first point. And second, I would even say there was something symbolic in the fact that our meeting took place in Washington. Since you mentioned my visit, I know that reactions to it have not been unequivocal in some circles both in Russia and in Georgia. The theme of all my speeches and all the conversations I had there was this: that in the present conditions a revival or recurrence of the cold war was inadmissible, or of any kind of confrontation between the West and East, any confrontation between Russia and the United States. Ivan Petrovich Rybkin and I discussed this theme, and I also discussed this with the Administration and with President Clinton, I talked on this subject in my public addresses in the Congress and the Senate.

[Skryabin] Thank you. Eduard Amvrosiyevich, a propos your visit to the United States. We know that you paid considerable attention to the need for support by the West for democratic reforms in Russia. You had conversations on this topic. What conclusions did you draw from your talks with senators and congressmen?

[Shevardnadze] I spoke mainly about the need for support for Georgia, for democratic transformations inside Georgia. But since the subject of Russian-U.S. relations is very topical at the moment, perhaps the most important topic at the present stage, of course I said that the West should continue its current policy of supporting reforms and large-scale, deep-going, global transformations in Russia which your country has started now. And I must say that in this respect my comments have always been met with understanding by my U.S. partners and interlocutors.

Communists Win S. Ossetia Parliament Elections

LD1104213794 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The Communists have won the elections to the South Ossetia Parliament, the self-proclaimed republic on Georgian territory. Exactly half the seats will belong to representatives of the Communist Party. A Tskhinvalil spokesman claims that all the elected deputies intend to fight for the independence of South Ossetia and its ensuing reunification with North Ossetia.

Cabinet Decrees Creation of Demographic Body

AU1104122394 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 31 Mar 94 p 1

[Decree of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers on the formation of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers Demographic Commission: "Information From the Government Building. A Demographic Commission Has Been Formed"]

[Text] **In order to implement a single demographic policy and coordinate the activities of state and public organizations, the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers Demographic Commission has been formed by a decree of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers. Its composition is as follows:**

Otar Patsatsia, Republic of Georgia prime minister, commission chairman;
Irakli Menagharishvili, Republic of Georgia deputy prime minister, commission deputy chairman;

Vazha Gujabidze, Republic of Georgia minister for labor and social protection;
Ilia Begiashvili, vice president of the Georgian Demographic Society;
Zurab Gegechkoria, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Department for Land Resources and Cadastre;
Valeri Vashakidze, chairman of the Republic of Georgia Committee for Refugees and Resettlement;
Teimuraz Sharashenidze, chief state adviser on health protection and social questions in the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers;
Omar Turmanauli, senior secretary of the ERISIONI newspaper;
Tengiz Sharmanashvili, deputy chairman of the Republic of Georgia Committee for the Protection of Human Rights and Interethnic Relations;
Zaur Kalandia, editor in chief of the journal TSISKARI;
Tedo Ninidze, Republic of Georgia minister of justice;
Avtandil Jorbenadze, Republic of Georgia minister for health protection;
Jemal Mikeladze, Republic of Georgia deputy minister of internal affairs, police major general;
Mirian Murjikneli, Republic of Georgia deputy minister of finances;
Davit Mchedluri, senior secretary of the Georgian Union of Writers;
Avtandil Silagadze, Republic of Georgia minister for the management of state property;
Leo Chikava, director of the Georgian Academy of Sciences Demographic and Sociological Research Institute;
Archil Khomasuridze, director of the Tbilisi I. Zhordania Human Reproductive Function Scientific-Research Institute;
Nugzar Pipia, vice president of the Republic of Georgia National Bank;
Tamaz Chikvaidze, Republic of Georgia first deputy minister of economy;
Valeri Chkheidze, chief of the Main Directorate of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Defense Border Troops, colonel;
Bondo Jikia, Republic of Georgia deputy minister of agriculture and the food industry.

The Demographic Commission is entrusted with analyzing current demographic processes in the republic and submitting proposals to the Cabinet of Ministers on implementing a single demographic policy in the republic and on improving the demographic situation.

Social Democrats: 'Eurasian Community' Concept

AU1104133794 Tbilisi SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA in Russian 1 Apr 94 p 4

[Address "To the Peoples, Political Parties, Parliaments, Governments, and Heads of States of the Former USSR" from the Political Council of the Social-Democratic Party of Georgia; place and date not given: "CIS—A Eurasian Community?"]

[Text] **As has become known to SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA, the Political Council of the Social-Democratic Party of Georgia has adopted an address to the states of the former USSR in which it proves the necessity of transforming the CIS into a "more solid" association—the Eurasian Community. As can be seen, Georgia wants also here to be in the vanguard of political processes.** We present the text of the document to our readers.

The former USSR represented a communist empire in which the rights of all peoples, including the Russians, were restricted. The peoples of the former Soviet Union should have been liberated not by means of the collapse of the former USSR but by its evolutionary transformation into a democratic community of independent states.

Unfortunately, this did not take place. This time as well, the struggle for power overshadowed general state interests. Politicians and the bodies of state power bear personal responsibility for the consequences of the spontaneous disintegration of the former USSR.

As regards the CIS, it does not properly reflect the level of actual integration of the states of the former USSR. Therefore, the CIS must gradually transform itself into a more solid association—the Eurasian Community (EC). The mechanism for its formation could include the achievement of the following agreements by the subjects of the former USSR:

1. The CIS member states will change the name of the CIS to the Eurasian Community (EC) by adopting the corresponding declaration.

2. In order to coordinate external, economic, and defense policy, the EC member states will conclude treaties on a diplomatic, economic, and defense union.

3. The treaty on a diplomatic union will strengthen the mechanism of coordinating international policy, while preserving the rights of all the EC member states to participate independently in international organizations, conclude international treaties, and establish diplomatic and other relations with foreign states.

4. The treaty on an economic union will strengthen the formation of a common market, the diversity and equality of all forms of ownership, and the implementation of an economic policy also in the financial, transport, power engineering, and information spheres. A common currency for all EC member states will be introduced and a banking union will be created.

5. The defense union will be built according to the principles of defense sufficiency. Strategic forces and border troops organized on a professional basis will form the EC's common armed forces.

6. Taking into account the multiethnic nature of the EC states, a council for interethnic relations will be formed.

7. The Eurasian Parliament (similar to the European Parliament) and the Council of the Heads of EC States will form the supreme governing bodies of the EC.

8. The Eurasian Parliament will approve the EC president-coordinator, [who will be appointed] in turn from the members of the Council of the Heads of States for a one-year term, and also appoint the presidents of the EC Diplomatic Union, Defense Union, and Union for Interethnic Relations according to the principle of equal representation from each EC member state.

A court of arbitration and a consultative socioeconomic and ecological council and a fund for the elimination of the consequences of natural disasters and catastrophes will be created in the community.

These bodies will form boards according to the principle of equal representation from each EC member state and will have an apparatus formed on a professional basis.

9. The EC's governing structures will be financed on a coordinated basis.

10. The Eurasian Community will be open to new members.

The transformation of the CIS into the Eurasian Community will help all the states of the former USSR to unite, states which, in the course of their mutual interconnection over many centuries, have elaborated a common system of valuable orientations.

We express the hope that the peoples, political parties, parliaments, and governments and heads of states of the former USSR will view our address with understanding and will undertake effective steps to elaborate rules for living together in the Eurasian Community that will be acceptable to each state.

The Political Council of the Social-Democratic Party of Georgia

More on Explosion at SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA Office

PM1204101794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 Apr 94 p 2

[Report by Besik Urigashvili: "Bombers' Games in Tbilisi"]

[Text] Tbilisi—The terrorists continued their bloody games 9 April when all Georgia was honoring the memory of the people who died on that day five years ago when Soviet troops broke up a peaceful rally.

Early in the morning three people died at Sadakhlo Station on the Armenian border when a bomb planted under a Tbilisi-Yerevan passenger train exploded, and a few hours later an explosion rang out at the SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA editorial building, which also houses the IZVESTIYA office. This time fortunately there were no casualties, but I would like to go into this in a bit more detail.

Toward around 1300 hours, when a procession of excited supporters of ex-president Zviad Gamsakhurdia was moving down Rustaveli Boulevard, Besik Tskhoroguzli, a colleague of mine from SVOBODNAYA GRUZIYA, and I decided to watch the demonstration from his office balcony, which directly overlooked the boulevard.

About 10-15 minutes later when the crowd of demonstrators had almost passed our observation post we heard the creak of a door opening and almost immediately a sound like the crack of a starting pistol. We immediately dashed into the room but at that moment we were deafened by a powerful explosion. We were thrown back onto the balcony by the force of the blast and covered with fragments of glass. When we came to our senses some time later and went into the room thick smoke was pouring from a sofa by the entrance to the balcony and plaster was falling from the ceiling.

Police and security personnel appeared on the scene in a matter of minutes. The surprise came later. On arrival the officers feverishly inspected the room but, instead of taking any action to seal off the exits from the building, began hysterically cross-examining us while we were still in a state of shock from the explosion. And each of them, moreover, confidently came up with his own version of events without taking any notice of our testimony. It was only at the end a few hours later, when Georgiy Shalutashvili, an investigator from the security service's investigation department, who listened to us fairly attentively, took over the case, that he said. "You were lucky, had the grenade not landed on the sofa you would have been done for."

Estonia

Ministry: NATO Air Strike 'Inevitable Decision'

WS1204082394 Tallinn ETA in English 1651 GMT 11 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers the attack on April 10, of NATO air force to Bosnian Serbs positions at the region of Goradze as an inevitable decision to guarantee the security of population and UN observers that are located at the Bosnia-Herzegovina security area, determined by UN Security Council, the Ministry statement of Monday [10 April] says.

Estonian Ministry of Foreign Affairs considers the above mentioned military operation to be in accordance with the UN Security Council resolutions No. 824 and 836.

The Ministry expresses hope that the normalization process that started in February this year in Bosnia-Herzegovina will continue in the direction of a general ceasefire and will lead the conflict that has lasted for two years to a just and peaceful solution.

Laar Returns From Visit, Talks in Norway

WS1104130394 Tallinn BNS in English 0856 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 11, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar returned Sunday [10 April] from a working visit to Norway, the government's press service told BNS.

Laar met on Friday with his Norwegian counterpart Gro Harlem Brundtland. The two premiers discussed the development of Estonian-Norwegian cooperation, the situation at Estonian-Russian negotiations, integration of the Baltic states into Europe, Norway's talks with the European Union, Norway's assistance to Estonia to develop the Partnership for Peace program and to set up the Baltic peacekeeping battalion, and the construction of a Baltic gas pipeline.

Brundtland expressed support for Estonia's demand that Russian troops must promptly and unconditionally leave Estonia in keeping with the international obligations Moscow has assumed.

The two premiers said they were satisfied that the relations between their countries were becoming closer, and that the links would be further promoted by the opening of the Estonian Embassy in Oslo. "We must go out into the world more, speak about who we are," Laar said, "then the world, too, will take more interest in us."

The Norwegian premier also gave her backing to the steps Estonia and the other Baltic states have been taking to forge closer ties with Europe.

Laar addressed on Saturday a congress of the Norwegian conservative Hoyre party. He spoke about Estonia's path to Europe and the Nordic states' role in the process. Estonia takes a road to Europe similar to that of the Nordic countries, the premier said, starting with economic cooperation with European countries and then proceeding to political negotiations.

The Estonian premier had meetings with the Hoyre party's leaders and with members of the parliamentary foreign affairs and national defense commissions. The meetings attached great importance to the Baltic states remaining outside the East's sphere of influence as one of guarantees for Norway's security.

Laar, Minister Meet With World Bank Delegation

WS1204100294 Tallinn BNS in English 1808 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 11, BNS—Estonian Prime Minister Mart Laar met today with Vice President Basil Kovalsky and other leaders of the World Bank, the government's press service told BNS.

The meeting focused on issues related to the Baltic investment conference the World Bank arranges in May in Paris. The goal of the conference is to introduce the course of the Baltic states toward a market economy and investment openings in those countries to the governments, economy experts and entrepreneurs of the G-24 countries.

The World Bank representatives praised Estonia's development, emphasizing that the government has, despite pressure, not taken the road of populism. They regarded the recent rise in inflation level as inevitable and natural. The Bank of Estonia and the government can take some steps to put brakes on inflation, the visitors said, but on the whole they advised the country to stick to its chosen course. The World Bank representatives met today also with Economics Minister Toivo Jurgenson.

Luik To Seek World Support in Troop Withdrawal

LD1104171094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1124 GMT Apr 94

[Text] Estonia will urge the world community to back its demand for the Russian troops' withdrawal by August 31, 1994, Estonian Foreign Minister Juri Luik told the newspaper Hommikuleht on Monday.

He said that the west supported this demand. It is extremely important, he went on to say, that by the time the 19th round of the Estonian-Russian talks begin, the western states' position become clear to Russia. He pointed out that Estonia would raise this question in international organizations, including the Western European Union, the European Union and NATO. Estonian representatives will also discuss this problems with the parliament of some states and with inter-parliamentary organizations, he said.

He announced that during his last week's visit to Brussels, he addressed the European Parliament's commission for foreign affairs, after which some of the parliamentary factions proposed that the European Parliament adopt a resolution supporting the demand for the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Estonia by August 31 without additional terms.

During the latest round of the Russian-Estonian talks in Moscow, Russia stated that the 2,500 Russian servicemen still staying in Estonia would not be withdrawn from Estonia by August 31, if Estonia did not provide Russian military pensioners with social guarantees. Estonia refused to do so, saying that this move would go against the national legislation.

Accord on Paldiski Reactors 'Almost Reached'

WS0804155394 Tallinn BNS in English 1407 GMT 8 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 08, BNS—In the 18th round of the Estonian-Russian negotiations, the parties almost reached agreement on the dismantling of the Paldiski nuclear reactors, Ago Tiiman, secretary of the Estonian delegation for the talks and head of the military issues working group, said at a press conference today.

Tiiman told reporters Estonia put forward an "entirely new idea" for dismantling the reactors at Paldiski, which the Russian side is now studying. "The proposal differs from the earlier ones," Tiiman said. "Our position is that the rods must be removed from the reactors by the end of June, and the rest of the jobs, such as dismantling the reactors and removing nuclear wastes, completed as quickly as possible."

Tiiman declined to disclose the details of the idea, but declared Estonia's new plan would be optimal in costing the country less than 10 million U.S. dollars. The dismantling of the reactors takes place in three stages. Tiiman said in the first stage nuclear fuel is removed from the reactors and taken out of Estonia; Russia will remove "military secrets" from the reactors during the second stage; and, lastly, the reactors and nuclear wastes will be transported to Russia. Should Russia agree to Estonian proposals, the complete dismantling of the nuclear reactors in Paldiski will take roughly three years.

Juri Tikk, special representative of the government in Paldiski, earlier said the first stage of dismantling is expected to begin in the second half of April. Russia will not allow even Estonian experts to attend the second stage of the operation, Tikk said, because they claim the reactors contain secret equipment.

Rescue Department Director Harry Hein said a special rescue squad of over 300 men and 100 machines has been formed to ensure security during the dismantling operation. The unit comprises fire, rescue, medical, law and order enforcement, evacuation, and other task forces, he said.

Government Agrees To Study RAHVA HAAL

WS1104104894 Tallinn ETA in English 0721 GMT 11 Apr 94

[From 4 April POSTIMEES, p.3 ; "News Bulletin" No. 68/94]

[Text] The government supports in principle the forming of an ad hoc parliamentary commission to study the case of the daily RAHVA HAAL and wider aspects of the privatisation of state-owned media, government spokesman Ain Saarna said on Friday [8 April]. Thursday's cabinet session had discussed the draft laws submitted by the Centre faction and the Coalition Party-Rural Union factions. The factions recommended that the activities of the board of the state-owned company "Rahva Haal" be suspended and the agreement with the company "Hommikuleht" on the publication of the RAHVA HAAL be terminated. Saarna commented that the government does not support nor wish the approval of these draft laws in their present form. The forming of the ad hoc parliamentary commission will only be possible after a ruling coalition faction or Riigikogu [parliament] member should propose it, he explained.

Protests at Russian Headquarters To Continue

WS1204083894 Tallinn ETA in English 1651 GMT 11 Apr 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Every-Monday pickets in front of the Russian military headquarters building in Tallinn will be continued until Russia has pulled out its troops from Estonia, MP Viktor Niitsoo (Estonian National Independence Party faction) told ETA on Monday [11 April]. Niitsoo said that the fact that in the last round of Estonian-Russian inter-state negotiations Russia abolished its promise to withdraw its troops from Estonia by August 31, 1994, changed nothing in the order of organising the pickets.

"We have enough patience and if necessary, the pickets will be continued until we have reached our aim," he added.

Rural Center Party, Pro Patria To Sign Agreement

WS1204100394 Tallinn BNS in English 1808 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Tallinn, Apr 11, BNS—The Estonian Rural Center Party [ECRP] and Pro Patria agreed in the course of talks today to sign the inter-party agreement on Thursday [14 April], ERCP chairman Ivar Raig told BNS.

Raig said the two parties still haven't reached agreement on exempting farmers and other individual producers from the income tax and on reforming the government. If compromise isn't achieved on Wednesday when the negotiations continue, Raig said, the differences will be established in additional protocols, which most probably will be concluded in May.

If agreement isn't reached, the ERCP may still leave the ruling coalition, Raig claimed. He added the decision will be made at the party's annual conference early in June.

The preliminary text of the agreement contains proposals concerning regional policy, the property and the land reforms, taxation and financing of agriculture, protection of the domestic farming produce market, government reform, and establishment of an agricultural scientific, educational and consulting system.

Latvia

Minister Links Future Russian Summit to Bases

LD1104152194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1443 GMT 11 Apr 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoi and others]

[Text] The Russo-Latvian summit, scheduled for April 20, is out of the question until Russian President Boris Yeltsin formally disavows his order on the setting up of military bases in Latvia, that country's Foreign Minister Georgs Andrejevs told Interfax. He added that even contacts of state delegations were impossible.

Latvia cannot be satisfied with the explanations provided by Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev or Defense Minister Pavel Grachev who did not write the order or even know of its existence, Andrejevs emphasized.

In his words, Latvia's painful response to the incident is largely attributable to the domestic political situation in the country. Andrejevs said that the Russian authorities had to be aware of the fact that the document on military bases in Latvia had fueled the Latvian radical opposition which had been taking a dim view of the agreements between the two countries. Now President Guntis Ulmanis had to do his best to have the passion calm and find the best possible solution.

Andrejevs said that it would never be late to hold a summit and sign the initialed agreement on withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia. He admitted that even though the incident with the presidential order had not contributed to better Russo-Latvian relations, Latvia had no alternative to moving forward to signing an agreement with Russia.

Bases Conflict With Russia Not Closed

WS1104164294 Tallinn BNS in English 1256 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Moscow, Apr 11, BNS—Russia holds the opinion that the incident over President Boris Yeltsin's order to establish military bases in Latvia was exhausted with Moscow's official apology. The Latvian side, on the other hand, is determined to achieve that the text of the executive order will be changed.

"We've given the necessary explanations and see no reason why we should once more return to a closed issue," Sergei Prikhodko, a Foreign Ministry official in charge of Baltic affairs, said Monday [11 April] in a telephone interview to BNS. "Also, we've not been officially informed by Latvia that it holds a different view," he said.

Latvian officials, however, state that the case hasn't been closed yet. The Latvian Foreign Ministry declared after Russia's explanations that, in view of Moscow having already partly acknowledged the error of Yeltsin's order, "a logical step would be to either revoke or amend it."

"Under Russian laws, the order takes effect on April 13, with which Latvia of course cannot agree," Peteris Vinkelis, first secretary of the Latvian Embassy in Moscow, told BNS.

Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis announced on Friday that he indefinitely postpones his visit to Moscow originally set for April 20. The two countries planned in the course of the visit to sign a package of bilateral agreements on the withdrawal of Russian troops from Latvia. Ulmanis also said the initialed agreements are "unfavorable for Latvia."

BNS has information that the Russian side intends to work out an altered version of the executive order. Changing the text of the order is linked with difficulties, however, since the heads of the country's defense and foreign political departments as well as the president are absent from Moscow.

The presidential staff are also determined to find out the reason for the mistake in the executive order. Sergei Krasavchenko, deputy chief of the president's office, even conjectured in an interview with the ITAR-TASS news agency that "the mistake was not technical but a political act with the aim of foiling the meeting between the two countries' heads of state."

Commander: Withdrawal on Schedule

LD1104163994 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1500 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Latvian Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis and Ilgonis Upmalis, head of the Latvian bureau for monitoring the withdrawal of the Russian Army, today met Leonid Mayorov, supreme commander of the Northwestern Group of Russian forces, to discuss problems related to the withdrawal. Mayorov told the Latvian officials that the withdrawal of troops and Army property was proceeding according to schedule, coordinating it with the progress of housing construction in Russia.

Alteration of Yeltsin Edict Sought

LD1104182194 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Russian officials consider that with the apology for the incident that has arisen from President Boris Yeltsin's order on the creation of military bases in Latvia, the conflict has been resolved. However, Latvian officials' views are different, and Latvia intends to request the alteration of the text of the presidential order. Immediately after Russia's explanation the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs stated that, as Russia has already partly withdrawn Yeltsin's order, it would be logical to repeal or alter it. This was told to the Baltic News Service [BNS] by (Peteris Inkelis), first secretary at the Latvian Embassy in Moscow, today. According to Russian legislation, the published order will come into force on 13 April, which is obviously not acceptable to Latvia.

According to information at the disposal of BNS, Russia intends, nevertheless, to draft an altered version of the text of Yeltsin's order. Though the alteration of the text is difficult, because neither the head of the Defense Ministry nor the Foreign Ministry nor Yeltsin himself are in Moscow at the moment. The Russian president's structures also intend to ascertain reasons for the error creeping into the presidential order. Sergey Krasavchenko, deputy head of the Yeltsin administration, even deems it possible that that was not a mere technical error, but rather a political act aimed at the disruption of the meeting between the Russian and Latvian presidents.

Russian Explosives Said Left Unguarded at Depots

WS1104140494 Riga DIENA in Latvian 29 Mar 94 p 11

[Article by Eriks Kulis: "Explosions Heard in Ammunition Depots at Liepaja Military Seaport"]

[Text] Liepaja, 25 Mar—In accordance with the timetable for Russian Army withdrawal from Liepaja, Army Unit No. 1331 emptied its artillery ammunition depots, but unfortunately did not finish the job. At three depots, boxes containing outdated detonators for infantry mines and artillery missiles (the latter contain approximately 300 grams of explosives), as well as long powder sticks were left behind. This oversight was immediately taken advantage of by youngsters, who took away everything that caught their eye, and over the next few days the area around the seaport shook with loud explosions. Thank Goodness, until now the "taking over" of the depots has not inflicted a toll in human life, but teachers at a nearby school are often shocked when they have to run after first-grade students carrying enough explosives to blow up the entire class. Naturally, the rest of the inhabitants feel as if they are on the front line.

"I am ashamed to report on this example of irresponsibility," the military prosecutor of the Russian Army in Liepaja, Vitalijs Pobedonoscevs, told DIENA during an interview. "Along with evacuating the ammunition depots, the armed guards were also removed, leaving only an emergency fire brigade, but no one at the headquarters knew that explosives have been left there. The fact was overlooked by officers responsible for transporting the ammunition. The result was that over four or five days, the depots could be entered by anyone who so desired. Presently, a criminal investigation is being conducted, supervised by the commander of the garrison, Valerijs Stalevs."

V. Pobedonoscevs also stated that it is now necessary to form a unit of explosives experts, because it is not possible to hand the depots over to municipal authorities in such a state.

With regard to these events, head of the Liepaja Police Department, Janis Lidaks, told DIENA the following: "This is an example of extraordinary irresponsibility. If military personnel were ordered to evacuate the ammunition depots, they should have been in full control of the operation. Presently, we are catching the boys, but this really only represents a fight against the consequences of the action. Actually, we have traced a few boxes, but this is nothing in comparison with the great amount of explosives that have already been spirited away from the depots. Of course, we have warned the National Guard, as well as the municipal police. But it is not within our capabilities to guard the 60 hectares on which the depots are situated. Surely, Russian armed sentinels have been placed there now, but according to unofficial reports, some soldiers are ready to close their eyes for a pack of cigarettes and let anyone in, if somebody would like to see what is inside the depots."

J. Lidaks is of the opinion that an intense trade in the explosives can now be expected, and whoever is interested will be able to purchase them freely.

Talks With U.S. Envoy on Relations with Russia

LD1104215394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The Latvian and U.S. ambassadors to Russia, Janis Peters and Thomas Pickering, discussed relations between Latvia and Russia in Moscow today. Ritums Rozenbergs reports about these talks over the telephone from Moscow.

[Rozenbergs] A meeting between Latvian Ambassador to Russia Janis Peters and U.S. Ambassador to Russia Thomas Pickering was held at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow on Monday afternoon. The main topic of the talks was the present state of relations between Latvia and Russia, especially in the wake of the Latvian-Russian treaties initialled on 15 March as well as the Yeltsin order on military bases published on 6 April.

During the talks with Pickering, Mr. Peters stressed that signing the package of agreements should in no way contradict the interests of the Latvian people. Pickering confirmed Washington's readiness to grant $2 million for the dismantling of the Skrunda radar station. The ambassadors discussed the possibility of granting vouchers to Russian military pensioners who express the wish to move to live in Russia, to obtain apartments. The United States is not yet ready to specify the amounts of money which it is to earmark for such vouchers. A serious discussion was held on the possibility of attracting foreign capital to a Skrunda fund.

Aid for Dismantling Skrunda Building Available

LD1104180894 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] The U.S. Government is ready to grant $2 million to begin the dismantling of a new building of the Skrunda radar station as early as this year, according to a letter submitted to the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the U.S. Embassy in Latvia.

In the letter, the United States has expressed readiness to also promote the involvement of other countries in this international action. The agreement between Latvia and Russia initialled on 15 March provides that the dismantling of the unfinished radar station will be carried out by Latvia using its own money and that it may commence immediately after the signing of the agreement.

Export to Russia Decreased by Customs Raise

WS1104195894 Riga DIENA in Latvian 4 Apr 94 pp 1, 6

[Article by Baiba Melnace: "Russian Customs Tariffs Will Impede Production in Latvia"]

[Excerpts] Riga, 31 Mar—The new, higher import customs duties, introduced by Russia, will have a negative effect on Latvian manufacturers who export their products to Russia. According to statistics, approximately 36 percent of the total Latvian export goes to Russia. Olgerts Pavlovskis, minister of state for trade and European Union Affairs, does not think that the increasing of import customs tariffs on Russia's part means economic pressure on the Baltic states. However, the Estonian Government, as DIENA has already reported, is of the opinion that by introducing new customs tariffs Russia has started an economic war against the Baltic states.

According to O. Pavlovskis, an increase in customs duties is not a special political act aimed at the Baltic states alone, because the tariffs are higher also for other countries. Nonetheless, the fact that the Russian parliament avoids—for more than one year—ratifying the most favored nation clause for trade with Latvia could be regarded as political pressure. Consequently, the import tariffs for Latvian goods are twice the so-called basic import tariffs.

At present, Russia has granted the most favored nation clause to 125 countries and organizations, for example, to the European Union, and basic import tariffs are being applied to goods arriving from these countries . Among the developing countries, 104 can supply their goods paying only half of the basic import tariffs, and 46 countries are not obliged to pay any customs duties at all. The rest of the countries, including the Baltic states, have to pay a customs duty for their goods that is twice as high as the basic tariff. Since 15 March, customs tariffs in Russia were increased for all agricultural products, and were applied also to those that were customs free until now. For milk and milk products, as well as for meat, the new basic tariffs are 15-20 percent of the value of the product, but for Latvian products, as was said before, they are twice as high. Among industrial goods, the highest raise was set for vans—from 5 to 30 percent. For motorbikes it has risen up to 20 percent, for cosmetics—about 5 percent, for textiles—about 10 percent. The average customs duty for Latvian goods amounts to 40 percent of the value of the manufactured article. [passage omitted]

Andrejs Runcis, director of the trade department in the Ministry of Economy, pointed out that the reason for the problems with the export of Latvian products to Russia is the lack of a main trade agreement between Latvia and Russia. He told DIENA: It is absolutely clear that the new tariffs create obstacles for Latvia in trading with Russia. At the same time, the behavior of Russia is illogical—if the customs duties are rising, the prices are rising too. The big cities in Russia wish to conclude direct trade agreements with Latvia on food supplies, in order to lower the prices. [passage omitted]

Birkavs Returns From Geneva, Comments on Talks

WS1204100494 Tallinn BNS in English 1512 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 11, BNS—Latvia's Prime Minister Valdis Birkavs maintains that the U.N. secretary-general should receive comprehensive and correct information on the development of Latvian-Russian relations, Birkavs told reporters Monday [11 April] on return from Geneva.

Birkavs met with Butrus Butrus-Ghali April 9 in Geneva and introduced him to the Latvian situation in view of the agreement on troop withdrawal with Russia and President Boris Yeltsin's decision to establish bases in the CIS countries and Latvia. The officials also discussed the alleged human rights violations in Latvia.

In addition, Birkavs invited Butrus-Ghali to visit Latvia. The visit could take place in the second half of this year, VIA [expansion unknown] said.

Ulmanis Visits Denmark in Quest of Funds

LD1104213394 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1700 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] State President Guntis Ulmanis has begun his visit to the Western countries of Denmark, France and Great Britain. Today, the president met Danish Foreign Minister Niels Helveg Petersen and Prime Minister Poul Rasmussen, as well as making a private visit to the Queen of Denmark, Margrethe II. Harvijs Baumanis reports from Copenhagen:

[Begin Ulmanis recording] The world's countries need to create for us the opportunity to set up in Latvia a certain support fund, which would have several aims. It can even be said that this is the main reason for our visit to Denmark, Britain and France, and these issues will also be raised in France and Britain. They have already been discussed in Denmark.

The main objectives of such a fund would be, first, to eliminate the consequences of the Skrunda radar functioning in Latvia. Without doubt, money from this fund would also have to be used to tackle social problems in Latvia. It would also be necessary to promote the return of military pensioners to Russia, if they want this themselves. The Danish side has decided to participate in a fact-finding mission at Skrunda, working together with British experts. The aim of such a mission would be to determine the negative influence on the environment of the work of the Skrunda radar and how it affects people.

Denmark once again underlined that the Yeltsin order of 5 April was unacceptable for Denmark and European countries, and that it has in no way improved the international climate—rather it did the opposite. [end recording]

Ulmanis left later for Paris, where meetings with French Prime Minister Eduard Balladur and Foreign Minister Alain Juppe are scheduled for tomorrow. After that Ulmanis intends to go to London where he will meet British Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

Ulmanis Appoints New President's Office Head

WS1104172894 Tallinn BNS in English 1256 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Riga, Apr 11, BNS—Latvian President Guntis Ulmanis has announced a shake-up in his office appointing manufacturer Ivars Millers to head it instead of Janis Eihmanis who will continue working there but won't be office head any longer.

The office employees did not give reasons for the office shake-up. Ulmanis would inform about the motives of his decision after he returns from his trip to Europe, said Sandra Dreimane, the deputy head of the office.

Ivars Millers is a former deputy director for economic issues in the state-owned Riga Motor Plant. The plant's director Ceslav Raubisko told BNS that Millers worked in the plant for 19 years. He has a university degree, is married, has one child. Was a member of the Communist Party. Raubisko characterized Millers as efficient and talented employee.

Business Daily 'Target of Russian Mafia Threats'

PM0804110094 Helsinki HUFVUDSTADSBLADET in Swedish 7 Apr 94 p 8

[FINSKA NOTISBYRAN report: "Swedish Publisher To Close Latvian Newspaper?"]

[Text] Stockholm—Swedish newspaper DAGENS INDUSTRI's Latvian business daily, DIENAS BIZNESS, has been the target of Russian mafia threats in Latvia.

"We do not intend to come to terms with the mafia. If the threats are escalated there is only one thing to be done—close the successful newspaper in Riga," said Hasse Olsson, chief editor of DAGENS INDUSTRI and chairman of the board of the Latvian newspaper.

The threats against DIENAS BIZNESS began a few weeks ago. Three Russian-speaking men offered the newspaper "protection in return for free advertising peace in the newspaper." Chief editor Juris Paiders rejected the offer. A few days later his wife and two small children were threatened with a knife by unknown men. One of the newspaper's cars has also been damaged.

"You can never feel secure," Paiders said, despite the fact that his Swedish financial backer, the Bonnier group's Affarsforlaget which also publishes DAGENS INDUSTRI, has provided him and his family with bodyguards. Hasse Olsson not only refused the blackmailers advertising space. Yesterday he published an article revealing the threats.

"The reason why we are publishing the article here and in Latvia is that we want to create a body of public opinion which we hope will make the Latvian Government understand that we cannot have things like this," he said.

"The alternative is to continue to live under this pressure with every growing numbers of security guards. There would never be any end to such a situation. Paiders and I are agreed that it is best to give publicity to the whole affair. Now that the matter has been made public I think that not even the mafia will dare to do what they otherwise would have done," he said.

And nothing will make the publishers come to terms with the mafia, not even an escalation of the threats.

Lithuania

Premier's Kuwait Visit Detailed

WS1204101194 Vilnius ELTA in English 0549 GMT 12 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 475]

[Text] Kuwait, April 11, ELTA—Lithuanian state delegation headed by Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius visited Kuwait on April 9-11.

The delegation was received by Kuwait State Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and members of the government.

Jabir was extremely interested in Lithuania's relations with the neighbouring countries, situation in the Baltic states and Lithuania's efforts to cooperate with European and other countries.

During the meetings the officials of Kuwait emphasized that they estimated positively the determination of the Lithuanian Government to strengthen relations with small countries and increase its activities in the international organizations. Jabir invited Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas to visit Kuwait and emphasized that Kuwait was ready to provide help for Lithuania.

During the visit both sides discussed the economic cooperation, investments and other issues. The memorandum fixing the dates for signing the agreements between the two countries was signed by Lithuanian delegation and officials of Kuwait.

Slezevicius invited Prime Minister of Kuwait to visit Lithuania. The delegation left for the United Arab Emirates [UAE] on Monday [11 April].

Brazauskas on Baltic Presidents' Palanga Summit

PM1104135594 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 9 Apr 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Yuriy Stroganov: "There Will Be No 'Baltic Bloc.' Not Yet...."]

[Text] Vilnius—The meeting of the presidents of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia in Palanga has caused journalists to start talking about the creation of a "Baltic bloc." However, A. Brazauskas has stated that there was no talk of creating any kind of "bloc." All that is happening is that multilateral treaties will be concluded which take into account the three Baltic states' joint actions, he noted.

On 1 April, for example, the treaty on free trade among the Baltic countries went into force. An agreement on social guarantees for citizens of any Baltic state working or studying in another Baltic state will be prepared at government level.

The strengthening of ties among the Baltic countries as well as their contacts with neighboring regions will shorten the path toward European integration, the Lithuanian president noted.

Considerable attention was paid to cooperation with the so-called Visegrad group of states—Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Hungary. Lennart Meri, for example, proposed that the concept of a "North-South axis" be launched, which would mean using the formula "five plus three plus four" (the five Nordic countries, the three Baltic states, and the four Visegrad states).

The conference stressed the importance of Ukraine's decision on joining NATO's "Partnership for Peace" program. This is because Ukraine, in the opinion of the Baltic presidents, will play an increasingly important role in the long-term guarantees of security and stability in Europe and in particular near to the Baltic Sea region. Clearly this is being done in the hope of creating a Baltic-Black Sea alliance, which is supported by politicians both in Ukraine and the Baltic countries. In this light the recent visit to Lithuania by Romanian President Ion Iliescu does not seem surprising. He also confirmed his support for the creation of such an alliance.

In the view of the presidents of Latvia, Lithuania, and Estonia, this will also be helped by the bilateral treaties recently signed between Ukraine and Lithuania and between Ukraine and Estonia.

The Palanga meeting paid special attention to questions of the withdrawal of the Russian troops from Latvia and Estonia. In a joint statement the presidents confirmed their conviction that Russia's entire Armed Forces must be withdrawn before 31 August 1994. They urged the international community to continue monitoring the situation to ensure that this deadline is observed. The Lithuanian and Estonian presidents welcomed the troop withdrawal agreement reached during talks between Latvia and Russia. They also hope that a similar accord will be reached between Estonia and Russia.

The Skrunda radar station, on which Latvia and Russia have apparently already reached agreement, was again in the sphere of attention of the heads of state. They stressed the need for the participation of international organizations in ensuring the strict observance of the use of the Skrunda station to ensure that the population of this zone does not suffer any adverse consequences and that the equipment is not used as a military base and does not present a threat to Latvia's sovereignty.

The presidents also expressed the wish that international specialists take part in the dismantling of the nuclear equipment at Paldiski. They also believe that the process of strengthening political and economic relations with the European Union [EU] should move toward the conclusion of treaties on free trade with the EU. They expressed the hope that a treaty on associate membership will be concluded no later than the end of 1994.

The presidents agreed among themselves on the holding of the so-called "three presidents' sessions" at least twice a year. The aim of their meetings is to develop closer cooperation between the Baltic states and to coordinate strategy on questions of security and foreign policy.

But the idea of creating a Baltic Council did not meet with support. The point is that such a council, by analogy with the Nordic Council, should embrace broader—parliamentary and government—structures. The presidents were not prepared for that. But everything has its day.

Jursenas: Stand on Latvian Bases 'Effective'

WS1204100794 Vilnius ELTA in English 0549 GMT 12 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 475]

[Excerpts] Vilnius, April 11, ELTA—If Russia tried to check the reaction of the Baltic countries and the whole region by its last political steps, it became aware of the position of the Baltic states on the issue, Seimas [parliament] Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas told a news conference on Monday [11 April].

Jursenas noted that the reaction to Russia's intention to establish new military bases in Latvian territory of each state as well as of the whole region was "adequate, correct and effective".

Jursenas emphasized the importance of the joint statement made by the three presidents of the Baltic states and the support for Latvia and Estonia expressed by Lithuanian Foreign Ministry.

During the visit of Jursenas to Estonia on April 6-8 a lot of attention was given to the issues of the foreign policy of the Baltic countries and its coordination. [passage omitted]

Jursenas also emphasized that, despite the hostile Russian policy, neither Latvia nor Estonia shut the doors for the negotiations with this country.

IMF Extends New Loan

WS1104165494 Tallinn BNS in English 1256 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 11, BNS—The International Monetary Fund on Friday [8 March] approved a USD 36 million preferential loan to Lithuania under the so-called systemic transformation facility, the IMF office in Vilnius said.

This is the second equal part of a credit that was approved Oct. 22, 1993. Under the systematic transformation facility, assistance is provided to post-communist countries encountering balance of payments problems that mainly appear when a country stops using government-controlled prices in trade. Lithuanian Finance Ministry officials said the first part of the credit was used for investment projects and energy needs.

Lithuania joined the IMF in April 1992 and has already received around 123 million dollars from it. A number of political forces in Lithuania criticize the government for the country's increasing external debt, but Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius rejects all criticism saying the per capita debt is quite small and that the Lithuanian economy cannot be rebuilt without foreign loans.

The IMF approved its first USD 77.6 million loan to Lithuania in the fall of 1992. The loan was given for six years and was used to stabilize Lithuania's national currency.

Peter Cornelius, IMF representative in Lithuania, said Lithuania has already used up possibilities to receive loans under the systematic transformation facility. There is also a 28-million dollar stand-by credit that Lithuania may receive if it successfully carries out its current economic policy memorandum. Cornelius said all the necessary information about the first quarter of this year should be available by mid-April and Lithuania can expect the first quarter of the 28 million in mid-May.

In its press release, the IMF said Lithuania aims at keeping its financial deficit below one percent of the GDP, in part by adopting an 18-percent value-added tax that comes into effect May 1. The fund said the establishment of a currency board is expected to help curb inflation, cut interest rates and to carry out a strict fiscal policy.

The IMF loan supposedly served as one of the principal arguments for adopting the litas reliability law that provides for the establishement of a currency board and pegging the litas to a foreign currency. The law came into effect April 1.

Discussing the economic situation in Lithuania, the IMF said privatization, which has already covered around half of all large and small enterprises, has been proceeding smoothly. According to the press release, the government seeks to accelerate the process of privatization by removing all preferential treatment for employees and managers in the privatization process, and by lifting restrictions on share ownership in agricultural processing enterprises.

The report said the bankruptcy law is in force, although a clear bankruptcy procedure is still absent. Discussing trade, the IMF said the Lithuanian Government now plans to introduce a uniform 10-percent import tariff.

As regards efforts to soften the effect of economic reforms on social life, the IMF said the Lithuanian Government intends to carry out a broad package of pension reforms on Jan. 1,1995, including an increase in the retirement age.

The IMF said signs that the private sector in Lithuanian flourishes "give grounds for cautious optimism that the recovery is underway in Lithuania. The recovery remains fragile, however, and the authorities must be vigilant in their efforts to foster a stable and predictable environment for economic activity if growth is to be sustained."

Socialist Party Voices Support of Ruling LDDP

WS1104134494 Vilnius TIESA in Lithuanian 6 Apr 94 No. 66 p 5

[Statement by the Lithuanian Socialist Party "On the Attitude Toward the Ruling LDDP" issued on 26 March 1994 in Vilnius]

[Text] People's disillusionment with the destructive policy of the right-wing radicals was responsible for the victory of the Lithuanian Democratic Labor Party [LDDP] in the Seimas [parliament] elections. Moreover, the social democratic principles in the party program also influenced this victory.

Assuming power, the LDDP managed to slightly normalize the political situation in the country and partially halt the dangerous confrontation among political forces.

Unfortunately, due to its inherent faults (an eclectic theoretical approach, the lack of political will, the infinite syndrome of remorse, and so on), the ruling party failed to introduce essential changes in Lithuania's situation or offer more serious resistance to the destructive right-wing forces.

Pressured by these right-wing forces, the LDDP Seimas majority adopted a number of extremely equivocal decisions: On the undifferentiated litas' exchange rate, on joining NATO, and on free arms trade.

It is already obvious today, however, that LDDP actions have become more dynamic. Work of law enforcement institutions has been strengthened. More attention and money are being devoted to the resolution of social problems. LDDP's foreign policy has become more active and constructive.

If these tendencies prevail in future LDDP activities, the Lithuanian socialists will support the moves of the ruling party. Such positive actions really help overcome the crisis in Lithuania, prevent political instability, and serve the interests of the entire population. The Socialist Party sincerely admits this.

We are determined to point out the government's mistakes in a good-natured manner in the future as well. In contrast with the absolute majority of the right parties, however, we respect the constitutional right of the LDDP to govern Lithuania until the next Seimas elections.

[Signed] Lithuanian Socialist Party Council
[Dated] 26 March 1994, Vilnius.

New Law on Land, State Ownership Criticized

WS1104141294 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 1 Apr 94 No. 63 p 4

[Editorial: "A Law for an Illegal Owner"]

[Text] The law on land has long been awaited by everyone. The problem of transferring or exchanging land, which is being resolved with such difficulty today, may not have existed, if this law had been adopted alongside the laws on land reform and "On the Procedure and Terms for Restoring the Citizens' Right to Preserved Real Estate." The latter may have been simpler and shorter, because the current land law could have regulated many issues. If the nation decided to restore the former preserved property to everyone, it should have done so without such delay, and immediately adopted this law on land which regulates land ownership and grants its owners the right to sell, lease, mortgage, or exchange it. Owners themselves would have regulated this issue much faster than the state. The latter began to move land from the owners' former place of residence to their current one. The state transferred the land for some owners, but did not have the chance to do so for others. Protectionism emerged: Those who were smarter managed to get their land from the bureaucrats, while those who did not have access to them remained behind. People were set against each other, and those who believed in the return of justice became disillusioned. The further we go, the more injustice we have. The state has decided to buy land from those owners to whom it allegedly has no possibility of returning it. The area of land that cannot be returned is increasing each year, while the state is promising to buy it at market prices. What market? Who knows the price, if the land market did not exist then? Finally, it is clear even to a child that a market is possible only between two sides that make a deal. Did any former owners ask the state to buy their land of their free will? They are placed in such a situation because otherwise they would not regain their land all the same. Even compulsory leasing has emerged.

Amendments to this land reform and the law "On the Procedure and Terms for Restoring the Citizens' Right to Preserved Real Estate" have been sitting at the Constitutional Court for a long time. Are they covered with dust? It may make no sense to annul these amendments later, because the new law on land adopted by the Seimas will make that injustice even more profound.

Yes, the land law itself does not seem so bad—the sale of land exists throughout the world and is regulated by the law. However, who is this owner possessing those rights? Apart from real owners, the state also owns land. Article 4 of this law indicates what land belongs to the state. The law seems to be correct because it states that land under state ownership is that which is necessary for common interests: Land for roads, railways, national parks, recreation areas, and land containing waters of state importance, cultural and historical monuments.... However, the law further details the sale of state land for private ownership. What land will the state sell? The land indicated in Article 4 which cannot be sold to private persons? The goal is stated in the third part of the law: Land that has not been returned to owners also belongs to the state. Why was it not returned? Why can the state have it while the owner cannot? Moreover, the law also recognizes as owners such people who bought or acquired land free of charge from the state. It follows that without restoring land to some owners (the previously adopted laws grant such a right), the state will sell it to others. This law allows state institutions and their employees to do so. That is why owners are against this law, and the opposition is urging the president not to sign it, threatening to appeal to the Constitutional Court. What can the Constitutional Court do? Does the law on land create this injustice? It only follows the tail of its predecessors.

Meanwhile, the "good" opposition had better keep silent now. Who prevented it from adopting the land law on time? During its former rule, the opposition also transferred the procedure of land restoration to state institutions rather than owners themselves. It is said that the time for adopting the law on land was not right. Land would have allegedly fallen into the hands of a few rich people who had acquired their wealth in a slightly dishonest manner. Do we have fewer rich people today? Did they earn their wealth in a more honest way?

Neither the current opposition nor the ruling force cared much about this justice, as well as about real land owners and users. Some of them wanted to make exceptions to a small group of owners. This is exactly what happened. Who regained land successfully and without any problems during the rule of the current opposition? Others, however, are concerned with a handful of officials. If the latter were short of state assets they could distribute, redistribute, or "carve off" a few bits for themselves, now they will have them. These assets have been legalized.

Foreign Investment Growing; Figures Detailed

WS1204101994 Vilnius ELTA in English 0549 GMT 12 Apr 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 475]

[Text] Vilnius, April 11, ELTA—80 countries from all over the world participated in Lithuanian economy on April 8. According to the data of the Calculation Centre of Economics Ministry, 3,674 joint-ventures and foreign companies registered until April 8 made 3.828 percent of all Lithuanian enterprises. Three months ago enterprises of 76 foreign countries made 3.7 percent of the total.

During the first quarter of the year 205 joint-ventures and foreign enterprises were set up in Lithuania mostly by Nordic and North American countries.

These are the lists of the ten foreign countries which set up the biggest numbers of enterprises in Lithuania until April 8 (the place in the list at the end of the last year is pointed out in the brackets).

The list of foreign countries which set up most of enterprises in Lithuania: 1. (1) Russia 957 (26 percent), 2. (3) Germany 619 (16.8 percent), 3. (2) Poland 568 (15.5 percent), 4. (4) USA 235 (6.4 percent), 5. (5) Ukraine 199 (5.4 percent), 6. (6) Belarus 159 (4.3 percent), 7. (7) Sweden 86 (2.3 percent), 8. (8) Great Britain 75 (2 percent), 9. (11) Denmark 67 (1.8 percent), 10. (9) Latvia 61 (1.7 percent).

The list of foreign countries which made biggest investments: 1. (1) Great Britain 28.8 percent, 2. (2) Germany 19.4 percent, 3. (4) USA 8.6 percent, 4. (3) Russia 7.7 percent, 5. (6) Poland 5.3 percent, 6. (5) Austria 4.7 percent, 7. (7) Switzerland 3.7 percent, 8. (9) Ireland 3.4 percent, 9. (13) Canada 3 percent, 10. (8) Latvia 2.7 percent.

Quarterly Inflation 'Considerably Lower'

WS1204100694 Tallinn BNS in English 1512 GMT 11 Apr 94

[Text] Vilnius, Apr 11, BNS—The rate of inflation in Lithuania ran at 3.3 percent in March, the Lithuanian Statistics Department said. According to the report, prices for goods and services increased more rapidly in March than in February when inflation reached 2.9 percent.

In March, expenditures on housing, fuel and energy prices jumped by 4.1 percent, but transportation and communication prices dropped by 1.1 percent. Food prices increased by 3.9 percent, tobacco and liquor edged up by 1.4 percent.

The rate of inflation over the past three months was considerably lower that during the same period last year. Inflation last March was 21.4 percent. According to the official statistics, the overall inflation rate in Lithuania was 188.7 percent in 1993 and 1,263 percent in 1992.